

FP Magazine 2006

Time again to plan the Biennial Dinner. Hope to see a big turnout. To keep the magazine going please write something on your return slip – even if it's only going out for a walk! Thanks for all donations and notes of appreciation also snippets of news from some of my former classmates.

Margaret Masson

COMMITTEE

President – to be appointed

Honorary President – Miss Jean Paterson

Mr A M Grant, Mrs Chrissie Grant, Mrs Betty Grant,

Mr Bill Templeton, Mrs Seonaid Vickerman, Mrs Shirley Findlay,

Mr Angus Mackintosh, Mr Stewart Grant, Mr Sandy McCook,

Mrs Daphne Ritchie and Mrs Margaret Masson

We would like to advise readers that one of our former editors, Mr Ian Smith is now residing at Grandview, High Street, Grantown-on-Spey. Although Mr Smith's short-term memory is failing, his memories of all his former pupils and his subjects (French and German) are still very alive. The family would like to take this opportunity to encourage any former pupils to visit him at Grandview and talk to him about these memories so that he can share some special moments with them.

The cover paintings are some of the Grantown Grammar pupils' entries for the Highland Council/Lyreco Calendar 2007.

Extract from Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2006 in the Staffroom of the Grammar School:

The Acting Headmistress, Mrs Irene Carson, attended the meeting for a short time and was introduced to committee members. She informed the committee that a school fair is to be held on 23 June 2007 and invited the Club to have an exhibition or display. The Treasurer intimated that although shop sales were down, there was still a healthy bank balance. Accounts were proposed and accepted. Venues, dates, prices and suggestions for speakers for the 2007 Biennial Dinner were discussed and 31 March in the Seafield Lodge Hotel was decided upon.

Accounts:

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS'

AND OLD GUARD CLUBS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2005-2006

2005	RECEIPTS	2006	2005	PAYMENTS	2006
£ 1,090.32	Balance - Deposit Account	£ 747.15	£ 750.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£ 750.00
	Balance - Flexible Savings			Postages (magazines and info slip mailing)	
£ 2,344.90	Account	£ 2,361.73	£ 154.94		£ 163.92
£ 0.70	Interest- Deposit Account*	£ 1.00	£ 129.00	Photocopying	£ 101.30
	Interest - Flexible Savings				
£ 16.83	Account	£ 14.78	£ 10.56	Envelopes and Labels	£ 2.40
£ 184.00	Magazine Orders	£ 202.00	£ 59.50	Paper/Plastic combs*	£ 43.73
£ 214.00	Lomac Magazine Sales	£ 126.00	£ 1,088.00	Dinner (including gratuity)	£ 0.00
£ 442.00	Donations	£ 430.00	£ 25.30	Advert for Dinner	£ 0.00
£ 22.00	New Recruits	£ 20.00	£ 161.57	Purchase of Old Guard Ties	£ 0.00
£ 85.00	Tie Sales	£ 5.00	£ 747.15	Balance - Deposit Account	£ 1,219.80
£ 1,088.00	Dinner Tickets	£ 0.00	£ 2,361.73	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£ 1,626.51
£ 5,487.75		£ 3,907.66	£ 5,487.75		£ 3,907.66

* Estimate (interest not credited until 20 November)

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS

2007 BIENNIAL REUNION - SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2007

IN

THE SEAFIELD LODGE HOTEL, WOODSIDE AVENUE, GRANTOWN ON SPEY

at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Tickets will cost £18.50 each and should be ordered from Mrs Margaret Masson, Hon Secretary, 18 Macgregor Avenue, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3ET by Saturday 17 March.

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 Seafield Lodge Hotel is offering accommodation with 10% discount.
Contact the Seafield Lodge Hotel, Woodside Avenue, Grantown on Spey PH26 3JN
Tel 01479 872152
Email info@seafielddodge.co.uk

JAMES R ALLAN

Sadly having passed my 90th birthday and having had two hospital visits in the past 12 months, I feel that I am now in the Departure Lounge, but I am looking forward to spending the summer in Grantown hopefully.

LORNA BANKS (STEPHEN)

Sorry I don't seem to have filled in last year's form as I have found it still intact in the 2004 magazine when looking for an address! Life goes on much as usual; daughters still both working hard in London. Was very pleased to catch up after 40 + years with Iris Forbes and Valerie Dewar back in February after we had been to Up Helly Aa in Shetland with other friends from Nairn. Have just spent our usual two and a half weeks in Scotland (April-May) visited Grantown briefly one Sunday and saw a few folk we know at Church. Thanks to all who keep the magazine going.

MAIRI BLAIR (FRASER)

I am married to a Canadian, Peter – have a son 18, daughter 13 and two dogs. I am an endocrinologist now working three days a week and trying to make time for golf and skiing. I visit Scotland regularly to see family and often pop in to Grantown but rarely see faces I recognise.

MRS MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM)

It is with sadness that I did not write in our magazine last year. My husband Bill took ill last Easter and after only one week in hospital at "The Queen Margaret" in Dunfermline we got bad news. I took Bill home right away and my daughter Marlene and I nursed him for four months, but sadly Bill passed away on 1st August 2005. He faced his short illness with courage and was so positive about everything. My family

and friends have been so helpful to me, as it was a dreadful shock to all the family. Bill loved to visit Strathspey and we had some lovely holidays up north. I do wish to thank all my friends in Grantown, and hope to be able to see you all soon this year. It was also very sad to attend Vera Thomson's (Mortimer) funeral at Tayport in February 2006. Best wishes to all FP's.

MRS R JOHN CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH McDONALD)

My flying visit to Grantown in October 2005 was just that! Thank you to my host and hostesses. Lots of changes in town – mainly new housing but basically the framework is the same. Also enjoyed Swiss hospitality from Karen Low and her partner Markus. Visiting Melbourne in January '07 to meet up with London based son and daughter-in-law. Met up with Garth and Babs Carr here in New Plymouth. Happy 65th Birthdays to classmates!

ROSEMARY M CHARLISH (MASSON)

Have moved to a lovely part of the country, Crathes near Banchory. Still flying to Norway with City Star airlines. Ellen is enjoying school at Crathes which is just at the bottom of our road where there are a few more classmates than the two at her previous school at Clatt. She loves horse riding and has been supreme champion at a number of shows this year.

WILMA COWAN (IRVING)

Not a lot of news this year. Hoping to pay a visit to Grantown this July – bringing three granddaughters to see all the places they have heard about and seen in photographs over the years.

JANE DALRYMPLE (MORRIS)

Living outside North Berwick. I opened a shop called Arkangel in William Street, Edinburgh four and a half years ago. Children: Hero 17 doing A levels, Hewie 16 starting AS levels, Phania 14 and Lydia 10.

WALTER DEMPSTER (1949 – 1955)

It looks as if I had a rush of blood to the head last year when I see how much I wrote for last year's magazine, so I'll try to contain myself this time round. The last year has flown past and I've not made much progress sorting out my collection of books and magazines stored in the garage. At the moment there is no hope of getting the car in to what is really a double garage. They say that when you are retired you have plenty of time, but it would appear the exact opposite in this case. We came across the University of the Third Age earlier this year in Grantown and enjoyed their meetings.

FIONA DONN

Nothing new to report. Life goes on as much as ever. Unfortunately balance and focusing (vision) problems remain even although it is now over four years since my illness/surgery. Still I continue to work on my patchwork/quilting when I can manage and at present am working on quite a big project. Container gardening is also being enjoyed as I can manage this reasonably well.

ROBIN FRASER (1951- 1958)

Nothing much to report – oldest granddaughter at Aberdeen University studying music. Since Walter Dempster has set up home at Rothiemurchus, we have spent

more time in the area. (Cheap digs!! Dinnae tell him!!) Have met Angus Mackintosh a few times, so have gone over old times.

SINE H FERGUSSON

Bird watching, (Nearest to Grantown recently has been Loch Garten!) Voluntary work with RWVS and Sheriff Court.

SHIRLEY A FINDLAY (MASSON)

Just back from a fun weekend at Centre Parcs in the Lake District. Went to Cyprus in July, our first visit there and thoroughly enjoyed it. Otherwise work as usual!

MRS NANCY FORSYTH (JANE A GRAY)

Leading a much quieter life now, it's great. Still on various committees. Church, Horticulture and Animal Charity. Also help people who are researching their ancestors, mostly they come from abroad. Our Church records go back to 1728 (ono) before they were sent (as all Church of Scotland records are supposed to be) to Edinburgh for safe-keeping. They were told in no uncertain manner – that they had been looked after in Avoch for 250 years!, 40 of those years in our home, and before that in the homes of former session clerks. Before the records left I had time to copy a few interesting facts. Our son Graham won an award at the prestigious Scottish Press Photography Awards. He was presented with his trophy by First Minister Jack McConnell. He also received a cheque for £500. His winning entry will feature in a roving exhibition tour of key stations in Scotland. Graham is employed by First Scot Rail. In September Graham and two other Scot Rail employees are undertaking the Mont Blanc Challenge in aid of Highland Hospice. They hope to raise the Scot Rail flag and the Scottish flag and of course raise funds for Highland Hospice.

MARLENE A FRASER (McWILLIAM)

Allan and I are enjoying our retirement (10 years on). The year 2005 was a very sad year for the family. Bill, our brother-in-law was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer at the beginning of April (2005) and passed away 1st August '05, one month into his 66th year. Margaret, my sister nursed him right through to the end. In the spring of 2006 Vera Thomson (Mortimer) my mother's cousin, and my very good friend, passed away very suddenly on 4th February 2006, leaving behind an invalid husband. We've been north in April '06 and late May to first week in June. The peace of the beautiful green fresh countryside was wonderful. Hope to be back again end of June. Saw a lot of kent faces. Thanks to all committee for their good work.

PAMELA GLASSE (MAIN)

Looking forward to two weeks in Grantown in July when hopefully we will have a two day canoe trip on the Spey. The children are all busy with exams right now. Jamie is doing AS and is also learning to drive. Henry keeps busy with his paramotoring and hopes to go to the European championships in Spain in August whilst I have various power walks planned in an effort to keep fit.

CHRISTINA & A MARTIN GRANT

Diamond Wedding. At Inverallan Parish Church on 6th June 1946 – Allan Martin Grant to Christina Calder. A celebration was held in the Coppice Hotel on Saturday 3rd June 2006 for family and friends which was most enjoyable.

GRAHAM GRANT

It's been a year of highs and lows. One of the highs will be the annual round of golf with Invergordon friends at Grantown. The low was the anniversary of Dad's death – but strangely it was a really watershed and a turning point. I'm in the initial stages of a Family history, so I can't wait to unearth some of the family secrets! I'm now playing with the Tain Pipe Band. My reasons for leaving the last band would fill a very entertaining (and poorly selling) book.

HUGH CAMERON GRANT

I enjoyed Part 2 of the interesting and amazing life story of Isa Moyes. I knew her – and she was a lovely and generous lady.

MARGARET GRANT

Sorry to be so late in writing but unfortunately when I was in Margate last July, looking after my son John's house and pets, I fell and had a double fracture of femur and neck of femur, so landed in Margate Hospital – still hobbling with a walking stick and have moved from Rushden to near my daughter Susan, which is lovely as I see a great deal of my grandchildren! This is a very interesting magazine as usual. Thank you all for the work you do for it.

STEWART GRANT

After 30 years at Aviemore Photographic opened my own photographic studio in Grantown situated in The Square, hence the name "The Studio in the Square". Great to be back working in Grantown, everybody has been very supportive. Also on the committee of Former Pupils.

SALLY GREENLEES (GRANT)

Enjoying life in Grantown very much – have been back 4 years now. Twins will be 8 this year and keep Gordon and I busy!! Delighted for brother Stewart, that his venture "The Studio in the Square" is doing so well. Appreciate all the work involved in running F.P. Club.

MARGARET C GREIG (GRANT)

I have just realised that I must be among the oldest members of the Club. However the years have treated me very kindly and I can't believe I am as old as I am. We don't go on foreign holidays any more because my husband's sight is very bad – otherwise all is well with us.

KATHLEEN HARRIS (DUNN)

Still teaching in Brechin. Can't believe I have lived here longer than Grantown! – time certainly flies past when you're over 21!! Daughter Jill is training as a Chartered Accountant in Aberdeen, after graduating from Aberdeen University in July 2005. It doesn't seem that long since we took her as a toddler to "the river" with my Mum and Dad to play in the sand for the first of many trips there. I have been going to Spanish classes in the evenings over the winter – they finish next week so that will leave me time to walk our poodle and try to keep the weeds down! We have had some Eastern European families move into the town resulting in non-English speaking children at school. I have had four during this school session – what a pity Mr Smith hadn't taught me Polish as well as French and German! It's quite a challenge but can usually manage to communicate to children (and parents, non-English speakers too) with much signing and pidgeon Polish!!! – all in a day's work.

GILLIAN HENDERSON

June/July 2006 are to be spent in Nethy on a family holiday. Kate (17) is on a gap year and staying on to travel. Hamish (14) is looking forward to long summer evenings for tennis. Richard and I are hoping for some hill walking and catching up with friends. We love visitors in our far-flung outpost!

PETER HENDERSON

Still living in Alyth where we are enjoying life and trying to enjoy golf! We are subservient to our daughter Kirsty (12) and a black Labrador.

MRS P.A.M.HIGGINGS (MACPHERSON)

Daughter Caroline and family are soon to relocate from Sheffield to Kyle of Lochalsh, giving toddler son Gabriel the luxury of a Highland childhood. Lucky lad! Lucky Granny too, with the prospect of more caravan trips north of the border, and opportunities to visit the scene of my own happy Highland childhood.

MRS JEAN HOGG (CRUICKSHANK)

The last year hasn't been so good for getting around due to a foot problem, which seemed to take forever to clear up. However things are looking up and I am now able to go for short walks again.

ANDREW HOWLETT

Recently moved from Nethybridge to Chichester (temporary only while house hunting in vicinity of children and grandchildren). Before departing, much enjoyed meeting Walter Dempster and Angus Mackintosh again. Thanks to Seonaid Vickerman at the Grantown Museum ceilidh hosted in March by brother-in-law Angus Millar.

JOHN IRVING

Now reached 75 years. On thinking back to schooldays I remember the slide that used to be made in winter on the slope from the playground to the boys' toilets. You had to be careful you didn't end up on the fence round the pitch!

CARINA JACK

Hello...since completing my Make-up Artistry course two years ago I am now a conductor with First Scotrail based in Inverness. Big change from the make-up, eh? But I really enjoy it. The shift work can be a bit mad at times but I still manage to fit the social life in!! Hi to all my old school mates and hopefully catch up soon. Take care!

GRACE M KIRK

Still steady as I go – but very much more carefully! Tentatively joining the ranks of “Silver Surfers”.

DEANE LAWSON

Serving police officer with Grampian Police based in Inverurie. Joined the force in 1998 having been a builder working with the family business on leaving school. Married in 2005 to Amanda who has just given birth to our first child, a baby girl Emma, in June 2006.

DOUGLAS LOW

Married with children. Director of the Oil Depletion Analysis Centre (ODAC)

KAREN LOW

Our ski season has just come to an end – a long but good one. Now we are waiting for spring to arrive but at 1100 metres and snow forecasted for tomorrow (it's the end of April) I think we still have a wait. I have just opened up my own business which is going much better than I was expecting, so there will be no visits home at the moment, hopefully towards the end of the year.

CALUM & ANNA MacDONALD (MacKENZIE)

Calum and I celebrated our 45 years anniversary in April 2006. Our eldest son Peter married Elizabeth in November 2005 and daughter Catriona married K.G. from Jamaica in March 2006. Alistair still loves working in London and lives in Ealing. He is a civil servant.

EMMA MacDONALD (1993-1999)

After 6 years in Edinburgh I've decided to throw it all in for a while and travel round the world for a year. Leaving in May and hoping to reach Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji to the U.S. (west coast). Who knows what'll come after that!! Would love to hear from anyone who knew me at school. Am still in touch with a few – Robert Patrick, Greg Rafferty and Dawn Jeffs – and others every now and again.

JAMES MacDONALD (1943- 1945)

2005 ended with an exciting cruise round South America including the Falklands. Although it was mid summer it was cold most of the time until North Chile and Peru was reached. Disappointed rounding "The Horn" as it was like a millpond. Finished the cruise in Lima but stayed on for a few days in Cusco and a frightening trip to Machu Picchu. Christmas at sea seemed strange at the time. Looking forward to a visit to Grantown in June 2006.

WILMA McDONALD (WATT)

Hello everybody! Am back in Scotland again with my husband to support my grandson playing with Beroni High Pipe Band. They are current South African Schools' champions and are hoping to do well at Bridge of Allan and North Berwick on the weekend of August 5th and 6th, in preparation for the Worlds at Glasgow Green on August 12th – if they are not too nervous! I don't know how they are coping with the alternate rain and sunshine over here. I believe you've had gorgeous sunshine, which would have suited us fine to match all the sun we get in South Africa! My little granddaughter is still doing well dancing among the Championship Highland Dancers and she's pretty cheesed off she's too young to dance with the South African Team who will be among the Commonwealth Teams performing at the Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. Mummy and Daddy just can't afford it this year - Maybe another time when she's old enough. Davis has been landed with us as usual and always copes so cheerfully with crowds of folk. We go and watch her play bowls, when it's not raining, but it's not been a good season so far. I really love my native Scotland and am always so thrilled to be here – BUT the weather would drive us up the wall after getting so used to South Africa's sunshine. Will be up in Grantown for a couple of days, so if I see anyone I know or who recognises me – Hi!

DOUGLAS McINNES (1951-1959)

We continue to have holidays! I'm worried about the ozone layer – we had thirty-two flights last year! Waikiki was the furthest away that we managed but we like to return to Italy for our ski-ing each year.

JOHN McINNES (1961-1966)

Another milestone – 40 years since leaving GGS! Thoroughly caught up in Priestly Ministry and blessed with a life full of all that makes it worth living – family, friends, health and delight in creation!

MRS IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) (1948-1960)

My visits to Grantown have been rather infrequent since Mum died in January 2005 – life's patterns change all the time and I suppose if I am honest, my little granddaughter Abigail, has filled the gap. When I do set foot in Grantown High Street I still feel "home", a feeling I'm sure many other former pupils share. There is something special about Grantown, despite having been away for over forty years!! (Where does the time go?) We continue to be very busy and there is never a dull moment. We are both just so glad to have the health, strength and inclination to follow our interests. Long may that be possible and long may the magazine flourish – you are all doing a grand job!

LORNA McINTOSH (1976-1980)

Finished counselling course so looking to change careers in the close future. My partner and I celebrated 12 years together. My sister Alison emigrated to Brisbane last year – three of us now on this side of the world!

DONALD McINTYRE (1939-1941)

Approaching 83 it is not surprising that I don't function as well as I used to do. The miscellaneous failings in bodily functions are called Parkinson's Disease. Nonetheless I can still climb Kinnoull Hill without stopping – and in the opposite direction I have regular walks to Perth Royal Infirmary! Fortunately I keep in touch with brother Ranald (in Falkirk) and old friends and former colleagues world-wide by e-mail – and I keep learning through the computer. I have lost many old friends and make many new ones! Memories of Grantown are treasured still.

RANALD McINTYRE (1939-1943)

Missed sending information slip last year – must be old age! Still computing – Family Tree, History and Scottish sites. Sparky (our dog) makes sure of his four miles of walks each day! Managed four breaks with the caravan at various sites – great to have change of scenery.

ANGUS MACKINTOSH

Three years after my return from "exile", I feel privileged to be fit and able to enjoy the delights of Strathspey in retirement. I see many old friends in the area: Walter and Annie Dempster at Rothiemurchus, Bill and Rita Templeton at Nethy, Frank and Mary Calder in Grantown – and many others. I'm fortunate to have a cousin in Aviemore, Iain Bain, with whom I do a bit of walking and archaeological exploring. I enjoy watching the shinty at Kingussie; and I journey south of Drumochter every now and then to socialise in Crail at St Andrews, out to visit my sister, Marjory in Helensburgh. When in Fife I often meet up with two of the Philip brothers, Raymond and Bob, and we reminisce of our experiences as part-time barmen in the Strath bar,

under the watchful eye of the proprietor (their father), during our vacations from studying at St Andrews in the 1950's. Short holidays in Madrid (to visit my son Fergus and his family who are domiciled there) and visits to Belgium and France via the splendid Rosyth to Zeebrugge ferry are always enjoyable – but they are inevitably followed by that “glad to be back” feeling when I return to my native Strathspey.

PATRICK McLEAN (1930-1936)

MA (AB); LLB (EDIN). Retired Director of Administration, Fife Region) After you're 80, nothing happens!

GILL MacLEAN

Life is as hectic as ever, looking after my two grandchildren and working at Landmark in between! At least I get to meet quite a few other Grannies on the school run. Never a dull moment! We've had a brilliant year so far. We went to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March where Craig won a gold medal in the team sprint. Unfortunately while we were away Mum fell and broke her leg and is still in hospital at this moment. I doubt if she will be able to send back her slip this year. In April we went to the Track World Championships in Bordeaux where Craig won two silver medals, one in the team sprint and the other in the individual sprint where he made history by being the first British rider to win a medal in this discipline for 50 years.

ISOBEL MacLEAN

Still enjoying life in Alnmouth

CARA MacLEMAN (1992-1998)

I am now working in a busy surgical ward at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Passed my diploma in nursing in 2005. Worked for a year in a care of the elderly unit. I am currently studying an open learning degree course in nursing.

ALISTAIR McLEOD (1950-1962)

Still Managing/Design Director at McLeod Building Ltd. with a local staff of over 40. Married to Helen. Sons Norman and Colin, Musicians based in Manchester. Colin gave us our first granddaughter Maili in July.

MRS ELIZABETH McLEOD (MacGREGOR)

Enjoying my garden and looking forward to the next excellent FP magazine

NEIL McTAGGART (1948-1956)

Close encounter with cancer for two years and three operations. Trusting that this month or next should see final treatment complete. If so, would like to be in Balmoral 10K run next spring – see some of you there? (That's not meant to be a joke!!)

IAN MASSON

In May Elise's little sister Natalie was born so now well outnumbered by females! Sam and I had a great holiday in Tenerife in September, maybe not restful with two little ones (and Mum came too) but most enjoyable swimming and sunbathing. Now down to earth again, back at work and planning next year's holiday!!

MARGARET MASSON (STUART)

Quite an exciting year with two new grandchildren, Ian and Sam had another daughter Natalie in May and Alistair and Caren had a son Ben in September. Had a lovely holiday in Tenerife with Ian, Sam and the two little ones. Had visits earlier in the year from Wilma (Irving), Tom and three of their granddaughters then Wilma (Watt) and her husband Tom who came over from South Africa for the World Pipe Band Championships.

LESLEY MEEHAN (CRAIB) (1978-1984)

I am still at Applegrove Primary. This has been a very busy year. We had our HMIE inspection in November; the school took a very active part in the Moray Music Festival in March; we are involved in the Scottish Survey of Achievement assessments. My Head Teacher retires in June so I can only expect next year to be just as busy!!

BILL MITCHELL (1938-1948)

I am still enjoying retirement here in Grantown after many years down south. Morven and I explore the countryside in our camper van trying to follow the sunshine and avoid the midgies. Although I no longer teach golf, I regularly play both locally and around the north. The ball isn't travelling as far as it used to but I still enjoy the game and the company. For the first time last year we had a cruise in the Red Sea and I achieved one of my lifetime ambitions to sail through the Suez Canal having been stationed there for a short time during National Service.

MICHAEL MOIR (1955 –1968)

In September 2005 I joined the Court of the University of Aberdeen. My business life takes me to Hong Kong every few weeks and an interesting new venture will take me to Shanghai as well. My wife Ann enjoys travelling with me and we usually manage to catch up with old friends.

RACHEL NEWBOULD (SMITH) (1966 – 1978)

Both my daughters busy with exams at this time of writing – one GCSEs (Susan 16) and Pamela (18) her A levels. The latter hopes to start at Leeds University in September. Enjoying life – just completed CLAIT and CLAIT Plus so now officially computer literate!

MARY ORANDER (CRUICKSHANK)

Oldest son Ian died some years ago. His son Arvik 25 years, now studies law and at present works as senior clerical officer for the Swedish Parliament's committee on Foreign Affairs. Ian's daughter Lisa, 20 years, finished school last year and has been studying French in France. My younger son Peter – 52 years – Advoket has two sons both still at school Erik and Martin.

ISOBEL ORFORD (CALDER) (1937 – 1948)

Another year gone by and spring is here. We had our mildest winter yet since arriving in Canada and I am not complaining. Flowers we don't usually see until June are now in full bloom so hopefully all the frosts are over. It has been said it's all part of global warming. Anyway would just like to say Hi! to everyone and keep up the good work.

RONALD G M PHILIP (1939 – 1948)

This year went to Alaska, Vancouver and Victoria. Amazing to see and full of Scots! Hope to make Grantown in 2007.

MONA RAE (GRANT) (1951 – 1964)

Not much to report other than I finally had my hip replacement at the end of November. It's just the best thing that's happened to me in ages. I spent my Easter fortnight on the farm with Heather and was able to do everything I once could. It's not too happy climbing fences but otherwise just wonderful. Anyone who needs this shouldn't hesitate about getting it done.

DAPHNE RITCHIE (DUNCAN) (1964-1977)

I should cut and paste last year's entry or the one from the year before! Still teaching in the school, with some changes though – a Mrs Irene Carson has just been appointed as our new 'heidie'. Still golfing and keeping fit (Stephen thinks we should include a bit of hill walking in our weekends when there is no golf on!) Still lifeguarding at the pool. The computer and digital camera still occupy a lot of my spare time. The garden is tidied when necessity dictates. Ditto the house. Don't have time to watch television except for 'Strictly Come Dancing' on Saturday nights. Betty Mutch (now 95 years of age) is in Weston House in Keith and expects a weekly visit in order to be updated on what's happening in Grantown. Holidays this year were to Normandy to visit one of Bobby (Kathleen) Mutch's daughters, to play golf and to visit the war museums, then on to St Nazaire in Brittany to meet with a teacher friend from Kingussie who now lives in St Marc sur Mer. St Nazaire was fascinating too. The German submarine pens are incredible structures. We were also away in Ferring near Worthing during the October holidays and regularly spend weekends in Glasgow visiting Dianne.

ALEX ROSS (1950 – 1960)

Nothing notable to report other than became grandparents in November for the first time.

MAIRI ROSS (1978 – 1984)

Life continues to be fun as we embarked on a new house build project in Kiltarlity. Decided to follow my instinct and go for something completely different with low energy use. It has been great fun to design and is currently under construction. Looking forward so much to living in it! The children prove to be the focus in life as that activity grew in number! The odd escape to the mountains keeps me sane. Did the Five Sisters of Kintail to celebrate being 40. Brilliant day of sun and sore legs afterwards. Went to New Zealand last winter to visit my old school pal, Rona Wallace.

WALTER ROSS (1946 – 1958)

I have been travelling extensively to India, Jamaica, Burma, Spain and Baltic Republic. Making up for not having a "Gap Year".

MRS CONSTANCE SHAW (GORDON) (1928 – 1936)

Retired Bank Officer. I'm always kept busy doing my educative "Scrap Books" and making small clothes and knitting for the children of Romania. I enjoy reading the magazine very much and reading about my former classmates. Best wishes to all F.P.'s

MARGARET SHIACH (SMITH) (1942 – 1955)

It was lovely to get the magazine after rather a long gap and to catch up on lots of news. I bumped into Dr. Bill Sellar the other day. He was our GP for many years when the girls were small and looked after us all so well. He was looking great and had just been up to a grandchild's christening at Cromdale.

ELIZABETH SHOESMITH (STUART) (1960 – 1973)

Living quietly and relatively healthily for a change. Studying local history at Aberdeen University and continuing my fascination with family history. Looking forward to Auntie Jean's 100th next year. Also looking for memories of my mother's life as a teacher - I might manage a book yet. Otherwise life in Orkney is idyllic – windmill recently put up – no electric bill! Glad to see anyone from home who gets here – we're the only Shoemsmiths in the phone book.

JOHN G F SMITH (1970 – 1976)

Still Director of Viztech now based in Larbert. Company doing well and growing fast. Spending too much time on planes to Far East, Middle East and North America. We moved house just before Christmas, which is not the least stressful time! - lots of room for the three children now. Just returned from a great ski holiday in the French Alps, keeping the tradition of family ski-ing going.

MRS ISOBEL SPALDING (GUNN) (1926 – 1937)

I am quite settled here in Ashley Lodge and have a very nice room with a lovely view over the front gardens and busy Great Western Road. I am still suffering a lot of pain with my osteoporosis and broken bones etc. but still manage to walk about with my zimmer and look after my personal care. I do miss getting out and about now and just have to live with the wonderful memories of lovely outings and wonderful holidays with my late husband, dear Peter. He came from Suffolk so over the years we toured all over Scotland and all the Islands, showing him our wonderful country and magnificent scenery. When I met Peter I said I bet I know England better than you having moved all over England and Wales also during my first two years in the ATS in RADAR. Along with all our visits to his family near Ipswich, over the years we motored all over England and Wales revisiting all the places I had been stationed in. I look forward to the magazine and thanks to the committee who work hard to produce it.

BARBARA STOREY (SMITH) (1969 – 1975)

My job at Booker Tate continues to keep me very busy as I recruit and move repatriates all round the sugar world. We are now in the throes of introducing a new all singing and dancing computer system called "SAP" and I can say that some days I come in from work feeling well and truly "sapped". I am sure that this painful process of learning a new system will be worth it in the end and it would also involve a trip to our parent company in South Africa for training, which would be an exciting opportunity. Catriona continues to do well in her Interior Architecture course at Nottingham Trent University. Next year she is looking forward to being out in placement with a firm of architects, which will give her some valuable experience. Our trips to Grantown are quite regular these days as we try to support Mum and Dad as well as we can from a distance. Recently our visits seem to have coincided with copious amounts of snow in Grantown. We are hoping our trips in May and August will fare better – but you never know!!

THOMAS B STUART (1937 – 1950)

Nothing much to report but we are now actively engaged in trying to sell our house and move away from the hustle and bustle of SE England. Relocation still undecided until we have visited Australia to see our youngest son later this year.

BILL & RITA TEMPLETON (MARSHALL)

Have had our usual round of holiday places – Skye and Oban in the spring and Jedburgh and Northumberland in late June. Had a second holiday in Oban in September when Rita spent a very interesting and rewarding day looking round the birthplace of her late father in Kilmartin in Argyll. There was a very interesting museum and restaurant next to the old church in the village. Bill, as usual, spent quite a number of days on golf courses but did manage to devote a lot of other days pottering in the garden. Now he is beginning to ginger up the Club Committee with a view to setting in motion arrangements for the 2007 Reunion – hopefully all arrangements will be in place by the time the 2006 magazine is produced – giving full details of arrangements for the event.

SEONAIID VICKERMAN (GRANT) (1946 – 1956)

I had a really interesting trip to China in October. SO many people. We visited Chong Quing – 31 million people in it!! Aren't we lucky? We "did" the Great Wall, the Terra Cotta Warriors, Tiananmen Square – and arrived on the Yangtze – a memorable experience.

SHERIE LYN WALKER (SUTTON)

Have moved to live in the lovely village of Greystoke, famous for its castle and racing stables. Work for a holiday company, which specialises in walking holidays. Whilst sales and marketing is in the London office, the operations department is based in a converted farmhouse outside Penrith. My particular job is organising the hotel accommodation we use abroad. I get to use on a daily basis the French and German learnt under Mr Smith at Grantown Grammar School as well as Italian, Spanish and Norwegian. My travel bag is permanently at the ready and my cupboards are full of duty frees. I keep active walking my golden retriever who spends all day under my office desk. Of my children three are Scottish (in Glasgow and Aberdeen) and one prefers the warmth of Brighton. Happily I have re-met my old school friend Andrew Smith from Nethybridge and we enjoy our daily lives down in the Lakes and popping up home to Speyside whenever we can.

JAY WARD (1959 – 1965)

Retired at 55 to enjoy grandchildren (2). Children (3), wife (1) and Golf (2 memberships and a promise to golf on 20 new courses each year). Still active in my church, bridge club and local gym.

SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON) (1944 – 1951)

At the last reunion we enjoyed the hospitality of Seonaid Vickerman (in absentia). Make sure Seonaid knows the date in 2007 so that we do not meet en passant at Bruar! Life is getting easier for us OAP's, what with free local bus travel and a 50p journey within the county, as long as we have the energy to make use of the facilities. This year Roy and I hope to meet my brother Keith, and Gay in Derbyshire when he has finished visiting the Open Golf Championship in Liverpool. It is seven years since

we last met in Canada. Our main trips are visits to grandchildren in London and Stamford. We hope to visit Grantown again for the next F.P. reunion.

KAY WILSON (ROSS) (1976 – 1981)

Still working with children and youth work team but have been offered full time job and a promotion so this would start at beginning of June. Never have two minutes to myself with two sons whose favourite word is “Mum” and then “can I get” or “can you take me to wherever” – I’m a taxi driver! Not up in Grantown as much unfortunately but will be up in summer as my sister is having a new baby – looking forward to being an auntie again. Going camping in summer – not my scene but will give it a go – might end up at Mums if I can’t cope!

HERBERT JOHN WRIGHT (1932 – 40) & SHONA (CALDER) (1930 – 1941)

The easy way to respond to this is to say there is nothing to report. However, I am sure that everybody has something to say that is of some interest to your readers...so I’ll meander on for a little and see what develops...Shona and I have been in Ontario since 1971. We have seen our two sons graduate from university, get married and start families and moved three times. The last move from a bungalow to an apartment was made with some misgivings, but it has worked out successfully, and we certainly do not miss all the outside work that goes along with a house. We spend much of the summer in our trailer (caravan), which is parked permanently in a trailer park about 200 yards from the shore of Lake Huron. (This is really an inland freshwater sea and can get very rough and dangerous. On the other side of the lake is the State of Michigan, but it’s more than 30 miles across, so you can’t see the opposite shore). Our sons have also acquired trailers in the same park, so that we have family “happy hours” and/or barbeques most weekends and spend time with the grandchildren. This seems to us a good arrangement! We also manage to play golf two or three times a week (the course is 8 minutes drive away). While we enjoy the game, there are a couple of factors reminding us of advancing age...one that the ball doesn’t travel as far when we hit it, and the other is the way the club staff make sure that our clubs are taken from the storage room and put on the cart as if we were too frail, to pick them up. Since moving into the apartment, Shona has been in demand to play bridge, a game she enjoys. There are several groups in the block, and someone is always looking for a substitute. I don’t care for cards, and spend time painting watercolours, or trying to find out what I have done wrong on my computer. The word bridge reminds me... is this year the 250th anniversary of the completion of the Old Speybridge? The year 1756 sticks in my head, but I may be wrong...the military engineers who built it, placed a commemorative stone near the bridge on the far side from the town, no doubt on the orders of a Colonel the Rt. Hon. Charles Hay whose name takes up most of the space! While on the subject of bridges I came across a book in our local library on bridges, and found a picture of the bridge at Craigellachie. It was designed, apparently, by the famous 19th century engineer Robert Telford. Which triggers another piece of irrelevant information...when the transcontinental railway was driven across Canada, the work went on simultaneously from east to west and from west to east. Where they met and connected up was a little place in the middle of nowhere called Craigellachie!!

NEW RECRUITS

Daniel Rene Bettoli, Bisley, Woodside Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3JR – Undecided, something involving sports

Oona Buxton, 3 Lethendry Lodge, The Square, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HG – Art related.

Bruce Grant, The Neuk, Grant Road, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3LA – Sports coach, preferably tennis.

David Hay, 21 Strathspey Drive, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3EY – Become a greenkeeper.

Alastair Robert James Kirk, The Cairn Hotel, Main Road, Carrbridge PH23 3AS – Self-employed business man.

Stephanie Yvonne Lawrence, Tangram, Balnaan, Dulnain Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3LY – To take a gap year abroad then to a Scottish University maybe!

Scott Clark Mackenzie, 78 Strathspey Drive, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3EY – Accounting.

Gary Jason Merrilees, 16 Munro Place, Aviemore PH22 1TE – Computer technician

Aidan Richter, Craig Gowan, Carrbridge PH23 3AX. – RAF

Hollie K Smith, 20 Dulaig Court, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3QQ. – University

Helen Frances Eleanor Thorn, Auchnarrow, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3PL. Art teacher/therapist or Jeweller.

OBITUARY (with apologies for any omissions)

Miss Vera M Campbell

Miss Margaret K E Cruickshank

Mrs Mary I Greenwood (Winchester)

Mrs Vera Thomson (Mortimer) (see contribution)

Sympathetic mention to:

Grace Kirk on the death of her sister Mrs Elise Selman

Mrs Mairi Blair on the death of her sister Mrs Julia McAdie

Mrs Valerie Moore on the death of her mother and aunt.

Ian Smith and daughters Barbara and Rachel on the death of Mrs Iris Smith

MEMORIES OF VERA THOMSON (MORTIMER) (1921 – 2006)

Auntie Vera died suddenly but peacefully at home in Tayport on 4th February 2006. Born and brought up in Grantown-on-Spey Vera was one of five children. She was very close to her parents and had great respect and admiration for them throughout her life. She often spoke about the many walks her father took her in the beautiful surrounding countryside, which helped to inspire her lifelong love of nature. Auntie Vera also spoke enthusiastically about her schooldays at Grantown Grammar School. Unfortunately I do not have any amusing stories to tell but perhaps some readers might? However we do know she worked hard and was dux of her year. It was a great privilege for Marlene (McWilliam) Fraser (Vera's second cousin and former pupil) and I to hand over Auntie Vera's dux medals to Grantown museum. After leaving school Vera decided to become a teacher and studied at college in Edinburgh. She described her first school at Jock's Lodges as a "baptism by fire". However it made her all the more determined to succeed. During her teaching days in Dundee she took a further degree in order to teach children with special needs. She loved her work helping needy children and often spoke enthusiastically about it. Auntie Vera kept up her interest in teaching and was a member of the Retired Teachers' association and regularly attended their meetings. Auntie Vera and Uncle Sam were married in Grantown-on-Spey 52 years ago and shared a long and happy life together. They were devoted to each other. Their first home was in Dundee and family and friends have happy memories of the warm welcoming atmosphere with Auntie Vera's delicious home baking and cooking. Although Vera and Sam didn't have any children of their own, they were a tremendous support and encouragement to their nieces, nephews and others beyond the immediate family. Vera and Sam retired to Tayport and spent many hours enjoying their great love of gardening. Retirement also allowed Vera more time to devote to golf. She was a member of Scotsraig Golf Club in Tayport and played regularly. An important part of Vera's life was her Christian faith and her active Church membership. She was never frightened to roll her sleeves up and be ready and willing to help. She was a Guild member for nearly fifty years, enjoyed singing in the choir and was part of the walking group. Not so long ago they walked part of the Speyside Way. Some of Vera's other interests included membership of MENSEA, RSPB and National Trust for Scotland. Auntie Vera loved to re-visit her home town and she and Uncle Sam did so regularly. Simply to go shopping and meet people in the street and exchange stories; to attend the Figgat Fare and help brother-in-law Peter Ferguson (formerly Firhall) to take along his plants, a museum visit to see Molly Duckett and have a chat and most especially to attend the Grantown Grammar School Former Pupils' Reunions – to meet with all of you gave her such pleasure and lots to talk about when she came back to Tayport. A Service of Thanksgiving took place in Tayport Parish Church followed by the interment at Tayport cemetery. The minister Rev. Colin Dempster spoke about Vera's fountain of knowledge and her respect for learning and discipline. He also mentioned her other side which could be mischievous at times – certainly fun-loving, full of energy with a great sense of humour. Vera's love of people was often expressed in the genuine interest she took in others. One of God's treasures who was shared among us for a while. The small lady with a big heart. Uncle Sam is at present staying at Moncrieffe Nursing Home in Bridge of Earn.