

FP Magazine 2007 First of all I would like to thank everyone who made my 70<sup>th</sup> so special and for the kind gifts very much appreciated. It was all so unexpected to be called out at the Dinner for the presentation. As you will see the Biennial Dinner was a great success with quite a number of new members attending and I hope this trend will continue. Again thanks to everyone for your donations to the Magazine.  
Margaret Masson

The AGM of the Former Pupils' and Old Guard Clubs was held prior to the Biennial Dinner in Seafield Lodge Hotel on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. Bill Templeton welcomed the company and introduced Mrs Irene Carson (new head teacher of Grantown Grammar School) as the new President. He thanked Malcolm MacLennan for his many years' service to the Clubs and his 30 years in the School. Mrs Carson replied that she would be honoured to support the Clubs as President and gave a short history of her teaching life before coming to Grantown. The minutes of the 2005 AGM were accepted. The financial statements were approved and accepted. It was agreed that a donation of £750 be made to school funds as in previous years. The meeting continued with election of committee and office bearers. It was unanimously agreed that Miss Jean Paterson, who had just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, remain as Honorary President. Daphne Ritchie and Margaret Masson were re-elected along with Bill Templeton. Mr Martin and Mrs Chrissie Grant retired and Angus Mackintosh resigned. Betty Grant, Seonaid Vickerman, Shirley Findlay, Stewart Grant and Sandy McCook are to remain on the committee leaving three vacancies. Walter Dempster, Ian Masson and Janet Flannery were proposed and accepted. Sandy McCook proposed a vote of thanks to Bill Templeton for all his input to the Clubs. With business completed Neil McTaggart said Grace and Dinner was served. After Dinner Daphne Ritchie made a presentation to Malcolm MacLennan with an amusing speech to which Malcolm replied. Sheina Weston then presented Margaret Masson with a bird table and garden centre vouchers and she was so surprised she could only say "thank you"!! James Fraser formerly of Nethy Bridge gave a very interesting talk on his memories of Grantown Grammar School and his work with the Tourist Boards.

### **COMMITTEE**

President – Mrs Irene Carson

Honorary President – Miss Jean Paterson

Mrs Betty Grant, Mr Bill Templeton, Mrs Seonaid Vickerman, Mrs Shirley Findlay,  
Mr Stewart Grant, Mr Sandy McCook, Mr Walter Dempster, Mr Ian Masson,  
Mrs Janet Flannery, Mrs Daphne Ritchie and Mrs Margaret Masson

The front page photograph, showing the original Grammar School in the foreground, is by courtesy of Gary Brindle (a parent of an S1 pupil) who sells his aerial photographs at [www.scotaviainages.co.uk](http://www.scotaviainages.co.uk).

The photograph clearly shows the result of the work of the Primary School PTA, with funding from Highland 2007 - Year of Culture, which was the creation of a Highland garden planted with native trees, shrubs and heathers to attract and support native bird and insect life. The garden incorporates sculpture and art work which should have a lasting aesthetic effect for years to come. Pupils, staff and parents were fully involved in designing and creating the garden. The Highland Council Rangers, R.S.P.B, S.N.H and other local agencies were involved in specific aspects of the project.

Work on preparing the garden was carried out during the Autumn of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, culminating in the opening of the garden at 'The Highland Garden Party' in May 2007. This linked with the community music festival in Grantown, 'Strathspey in May'.

To open the Garden, the PTA held a spectacular outdoor event/performance for the community in the school grounds in which all 290 primary pupils participated. This celebration involved music, dance and drama and linked the history of the school, established in 1836, with a celebration of the unique and beautiful local environment in which we live.

## CLUB ACCOUNTS

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2006-2007

2006	RECEIPTS	2007	2006	PAYMENTS	2007
£747.15	Balance - Deposit Account	£1,219.73	£750.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£750.00
				Postages (magazines and info slip mailing)	£258.98
£2,361.73	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£1,626.51	£163.92	Photocopying	£115.81
£0.93	Interest- Deposit Account*	£1.03	£101.30	Envelopes and Labels	£2.80
£14.78	Interest - Flexible Savings Account	£9.42	£2.40	Paper/Plastic combs	£45.44
£202.00	Magazine Orders	£218.00	£43.73	Dinner (including gratuity and non-paying guests)	£1,258.00
£126.00	Lomac Magazine Sales	£160.00	£0.00	Bouquets of flowers for dinner	£40.00
£430.00	Donations	£478.00	£0.00	Gratuity for Mr M C MacLennan	£269.00
£20.00	New Recruits	£22.00	£0.00	Gratuity for Mrs M Masson	£319.00
£5.00	Old Guard Tie Sales	£25.00	£0.00	Balance - Deposit Account	£799.73
£0.00	Dinner Tickets	£1,147.00	£1,219.73	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£1,635.93
£0.00	Collection for retiral of Mr M C MacLennan	£269.00	£1,626.51	Collection for 70th birthday of Mrs M Masson	£319.00
£0.00		£319.00			
£3,907.59		£5,494.69	£3,907.59		£5,494.69

\* Estimated as £1 in 2006 Accounts

## JAMES ALLAN

Today I am 91, fit and healthy and there is much I have to do so if I have not finished all I want to see I will hope I will live until I am 92. But then if I have not finished all I want to see I will hope I can stay until I am 93.

**LYNDA BEVERIDGE (FREEBORN)**

Attended my first Former Pupils and Old Guard Clubs reunion this year (March 2007) and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was lovely meeting up with Lindsay Laing (Wood) again and also other FPs. Will be at the next reunion and hope some more of us “younger” FPs will manage along.

**PAMELA BRAID (GIBSON) (1939 – 1946)**

I’ve just returned from a visit to my brother Douglas in Bradford. He celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and, before his eldest son goes to Afghanistan in June for six months, his family organised an early birthday party.

**ELIZABETH BREMNER (MACKENZIE)**

To celebrate my 70<sup>th</sup> climbed a Munro – Carn Banmhor and had my birthday cake at the Cairn! I’m pretty sure Bill and I were the oldest on the hill that day!!

**MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM) (1943 – 1958)**

The last 20 months have not been so good, as being on your own is difficult going out and about. Have not managed up north this last three years. Kept busy with grandchildren, family and visitors. Got my MOT this month – can’t believe it is 11 years since my heart bypass and I really am doing well (check up yearly). Do not have any holidays planned, getting on a bit. Enjoy reading the F.P. Magazine.

**IRENE CHAPMAN (EDWARDS) (1960 – 1966)**

Looking forward to retirement in January 2008!

**ELIZABETH CHAPMAN (M McDONALD) (1947 – 1959)**

January '07 saw me in Melbourne to meet up with London-based son and daughter-in-law who were having a look round with the idea of perhaps moving there in a couple of years’ time. 36.6 °C most days!. Must admit 3 hours 26 mins across the ditch (Tasman Sea!) is more appealing than 30 hours New Zealand to Inverness! Now an OAP – 65 years for men and women in New Zealand.

**ROSEMARY CHARLISH (MASSON)**

Although very cold in Norway at present the views of the snow clad hills are beautiful when flying in to the airports. Ellen has taken up badminton and enjoys swimming with big sister Kayleigh on Friday evenings.

**ALLAN CHISHOLM (1957 – 1963)**

A recent golfing trip to Gleneagles allowed a short visit to Grantown. Hopefully a proper visit can be arranged for next year.

**WILMA COWAN (IRVING) 1942 – 1954)**

Enjoyed our trip north last summer with the 3 granddaughters and managed to spend some time with Jean and Grant Ross and Margaret Masson. Good to see old friends again. We took the girls to see the dolphins in the Moray Firth and they obliged by putting in an appearance. Unfortunately Nessie did not in Loch Ness. We all enjoyed feeding the reindeer. They visit Darlington every year with “Santa” but it was a treat for the children to see them all in the wild on the hill and be able to stroke and feed them. Spent a day at Landmark and we were surprised to find such a variety of

attractions there to suit all age groups and how interesting it was. Was sorry to hear that Alice (King) McCurdy had died in USA last December. Our mothers were the greatest of friends and we always kept in touch. Finally, happy birthday to old classmates, who, like me are approaching, or have already reached 70 years young. Where have all the years gone?

#### **LORNA CRICHTON (FORBES) (1972 – 1978)**

At the moment I am working as a learning support teacher, visiting schools in East Dunbartonshire. In August 2007 I shall be starting work as an English Additional Language teacher, also within East Dunbartonshire council. As a family we spent part of the summer 2006 in Manali, north India at the Lady Willingdon Hospital and Daystar school. Manali is in the foothills of the Himalayas and quite near the Kashmir border. Ailsa, our daughter and I worked in the school, helping children with their English. Murray, my husband, worked in the hospital and Alasdair, our son, worked in the kindergarten. This was my fourth visit to the area and it was good to meet up with friends again in this very remote part of the world. Both children have now left school, Alasdair has just completed his first year at Glasgow Caledonian University and Ailsa will be starting Strathclyde University in Glasgow to study Maths.

#### **IAIN and FIONA CUMMING (LEDINGHAM)**

We haven't filled in a form for years and thought it was about time we did as we like to read all the news in the magazine. Iain continues to work as a Marine Pilot on the River Forth Estuary. The job is varied, challenging and the scenery is stunning. He likes to run to keep fit but no longer runs competitively. He enjoys cycle challenges especially taking part in the Beallach-na-Ba. I have taken a "gap" year from my work as an OT with Social Services in Edinburgh, so spending time volunteering at RBGE and doing lots of outdoor activities. We had a wonderful adventure holiday in New Zealand in 2007 and are visiting Grantown frequently to see Dad (Sandy Ledingham) and Iain's Mother Margaret who are both now in their mid 80's. Our sons are Alexander (26) who works for the Scottish Executive and James (22) has returned to Dundee University to complete the final part of his Architecture degree.

#### **RAYMOND DAVIDSON (1940 – 1950)**

This year my wife Jess and I are visiting my brother Mike and his wife in Norway and also old friends in Worcester and Bournemouth. In October I am to visit the War Graves in Europe with Alistair McKenzie's bus tour. All spare time spent on the Golf Course trying to keep my handicap down with my golfing pals, Norman Kinnaird, John Grant, Bill Mitchell, Jackie Knight and Sandy McInnes.

#### **WALTER DEMPSTER (1949-1955)**

Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow

I can hardly believe that we have been in the Strath nearly three years now – how time flies after retiral! We are well settled in now and enjoying life in many ways. We got a new black Lab pup from the Tulchan area in March and he gives us great pleasure, getting us out and about round the estate and helping us stay young (at heart at least). I'm still hoping to see old schoolmates to reminisce with about the old days. Angus Mackintosh is a regular visitor, dropping in from his walking excursions and having a bite to eat. Robin Fraser and his wife Nora come up from Aberdeen when their busy bowling schedule allows. In Grantown Margaret Masson always has a cheery smile when we meet. We had have had several opportunities to hear George Dixon talking

about different aspects of his native heath and I never cease to be fascinated by his knowledge and ability to bring the past alive. When we were talking about the good old days I was recalling one sports day down behind the school. It was probably my last one in 1955. As usual Mr Thornton was the official starter but that year he had problems with his starting pistol. However, not to be beaten he enlisted the assistance of a soldier from the REME camp who duly turned up with what looked like a Lee Enfield .303 rifle. The races were started with a gunblast, which probably resulted in record times for those involved. Imagine the headlines in the Strathy and other papers if that was to happen today. How times have changed!

**GEORGE DIXON MA, BSc, RMSA, FSA Scot (1940 – 1953)**

Have been Registered Member of the Society of Archivists for a good many years and have in recent months been back working, for brief spells, as an archivist for Highland Council, Stirling Council and the Heriot Trust in Edinburgh. It was good to learn earlier from the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald's current editor that fellow-FP Mrs Baff (sic), the younger daughter of its founder editor, Alexander Tulloch, Strathspey's greatest journalist, is still very much alive and interested in this month's centenary issue.

**MARGARET M DONALD (1947 – 1960)**

Still in London. Kept busy invigilating and doing voluntary work at St Thomas' Hospital and Florence Nightingale Museum. I do enjoy visiting Grantown.

**MAUREEN FEARNLEY (MACAULAY) (1960 – 1963)**

Had best Christmas present ever - a grandson born on Christmas day! Been waiting a long time for a grandchild so we are thrilled to bits with Luke.

**LAURA FINDLAY**

Worked all summer as waitress, barmaid, cleaner etc. at Boat of Garten Golf Club. Now glad season is over and having a well earned rest.

**SHIRLEY FINDLAY (MASSON)**

Most of last year was taken up with organising Mum's surprise birthday weekend – no mean feat as some of the family live abroad. However all went well and the weekend was a great success.

**MRS NANCY FORSYTH (GRAY)**

Still knipin' on – at a slower pace of course! In September son Graham and two other Scot Rail employees managed to reach the summit of Mont Blanc even although British Railways managed to lose their climbing gear. Money they raised (nearly £1500) was donated to Highland Hospice. In October Willie and myself were guests of 201 Squadron at RAF Kinloss. Willie had served with a Canadian Bomber group then 209 (City of Hong Kong) Squadron on Sunderland flying boats in W.W.2 and Nancy's experiences during W.W.2 left memories, which she has never forgotten. Kinloss airmen and their families have visited the Forsyth's open days. The arrangements were made by Flight Sergeant Paul Salway. On arrival Nancy and Willie and their daughter Lynn met Wing Commander Chaz Counter and other members of 201 Squadron. After a chat about the "old days," they were whisked off by four escorts to see through a Nimrod patrol aircraft. Nancy and Lynn were a bit overawed but not Willie (well you can still be a bit cocky at 84!) Back at Squadron

headquarters where Wing Commander Counter and others were waiting, after refreshments, and much to our surprise Willie was presented with a framed photograph which had been taken on our arrival with members of the Squadron, also a coloured picture of the Nimrod we had visited which the Squadron members had signed and he was also presented with a mounted mosse key, as formerly used in the aircraft. Indeed a day we will always remember. Enjoyed a “blether” about the old days with Alison Clark (Ronaldson) on the phone.

**ELSPETH M FRASER (MITCHELL) (1935 – 1947)**

Had a “mini FP reunion” here at Kilmorack on Saturday 12 May when five former pupils of GGS came for the afternoon. Suffice to say Morag, Shona, Sheena, Joan, Ann and self enjoyed going down “Memory Lane”. We did enjoy the well-organised reunion in Grantown in March and that prompted me to arrange the “mini” effort. Last year I had a lovely holiday in Crete with eldest son, his wife and two boys. We now have ten grandchildren – ages ranging from 20 years to 1 year old, two are now at University.

**MARLENE FRASER (McWILLIAM)**

Thoroughly enjoyed the 2007 Biennial Reunion. Met many school friends, lots of chat and very good company. Excellent menu and meal. Allan and I enjoying our retirement (11 years on). We celebrated our golden wedding at Pine Trees Hotel, Pitlochry where we had our honeymoon on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1956 – 2006. Had a happy time with our family. It’s now July 2007 and our third trip to the cottage, our family parts. Done lots of visiting and will be up to Grantown soon again from Edinburgh. Thanks to all committee for their hard work which is much appreciated.

**FIONA and SHELAGH GRANT**

Lots of celebrations in March with Mum and Dad both now 80. Dad wanted new set of golf clubs! Still amazing plays off a handicap of 4. We have had a busy time at work. Shelagh at airport which continues to expand with more and more people travelling. I continue to battle all the changes the NHS sends us. We have enjoyed trips to Barbados, Majorca and USA this year – so it’s not all bad!! Regards to anyone who knows us.

**MRS JOHN GRANT (BETTY TEMPLETON)**

Have had a busy year. Visiting family in Edinburgh and Inch. Had a lovely trip to Skye and then up to Applecross. Lately enjoyed two weeks in Palermo with the family. Still kept busy in our large garden – but usually fit in a daily walk – John still enjoys his golf outings. Just very fortunate we can still do these things.

**SEONAIID GREEN (MacLURE)**

Retired. Formerly worked with Highland Council as the Community Learning and Development officer for Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey.

**MARGARET C GREIG (GRANT) (1933 – 1938)**

Really nothing new to report. Although we have stopped going on foreign holidays we fortunately are fit and well. A young Vietnamese family have “adopted” us as Granny, Grandad and bring us much pleasure.

**GILLIAN HENDERSON-HOBBS (HENDERSON) (1956 – 1962)**

Parents have moved back to Grantown after 20 years in Nethy. We look forward to seeing the new abode when we next visit from Australia. Katie (18) worked at Osprey Centre summer 2006 and now at university in Perth WA. Hamish (15) at school. We love the news in the magazine. Many thanks.

**FIONA HUNTER (HENDERSON) (1959 – 1966)**

We are now enjoying more time in Speyside. My parents have moved back to Grantown and are delighted with their flat in Woodside Court and we have taken over their house in Nethy. This will initially be a second home but we may look to moving North in the future. Rachel graduated this year from Newcastle and Michael goes into 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Aberdeen.

**MRS P.A.M. HIGGINS (MacPHERSON) (1949 – 1956)**

Last September I greatly enjoyed spending a day with Brenda McHattie, our first meeting in 44 years. The occasion was a school reunion of our year at Bell Baxter High School in Cupar, Fife, which we both attended after leaving Grantown during our secondary school years in the late 50s. The event was a truly joyous occasion, attended by 97 former pupils (and 2 of our teachers!) most of whom had not met since schooldays, as many had scattered worldwide, in the manner of Scots people for many generations. It made me appreciate (not for the first time) the wonderful service provided by the committee who produce the GGS FP magazine, and keep so many of us aware on an annual basis, of the lives of those who have shared a Grantown schooling. This method of keeping in touch has been much envied by friends and colleagues over the years, and is, as far as I know, unique. So thank you all wholeheartedly.

**JEAN HOGG (CRUICKSHANK)**

Don't do so much walking nowadays but enjoy going to various meetings and seeing friends. Use the "Dial-a-Bus" service for shopping, which is so appreciated by all who use it. Very much enjoyed the Biennial Dinner chatting to old acquaintances.

**CRAIG LAWSON (1982 – 1988)**

Left school in 1988 before going to university in Edinburgh where I have been since. Currently a team manager with Scottish Gas having just completed a year's secondment to Mumbai in India.

**DEANE LAWSON (1984 – 1990)**

Police Officer with Grampian Police in Inverurie. Married to Amanda and live in Newmachar with our daughter Emma who is one.

**ANDREW LIGGAT (1974 – 1989)**

After 22 years service I have decided to call time on my regular Air Force career and have settled back in Grantown. So once again there are Liggats back in the Grammar School. I have not entirely left military service and will now be working full time for 2622 (Highland) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment at RAF Lossiemouth.

**ARCHIE LIGGAT (1963 – 1976)**

Still flying long haul for British Airways. Now have two small aeroplanes based on a local farm airstrip so also doing quite a bit of very short haul! Nice contrast and a lot of fun flying round Scotland. Eldest daughter Catriona taking Highers at the moment and youngest, Kirsty well into secondary school. Wife Liz on part-time contract teaching at local secondary school. Life is extremely busy but might be up in Grantown more often as brother Andrew and family have moved there.

**JANE LILLEY (MacAULAY) (1965 – 1971)**

Still working as a lecturer in communication at Aberdeen College, as well as a group tutor with Adult Literacy. Son Andrew graduates (finally!) in Architecture this summer and will be taking up a job in Edinburgh. Then, in summer 2008, he gets married in Nethy Church. Daughter Alison has one year to go of a Zoology course at Glasgow University. She is currently on a year's placement at the University of Southern Bohemia in the Czech Republic.

**SIMON MacAULAY (1963 – 1969)**

Assistant general secretary, Education Institute of Scotland. Responsibilities include education, equalities, professional development and communications.

**GILLIAN McCARTHY (BEVERIDGE) (1988 – 1994)**

I sit here writing as I wait for my IKEA furniture to be delivered. In this world of technology I still have to sit at home between 7am – 1pm as the delivery driver can't be sure what time he'll call!! It has been an exciting year and a bit since I last wrote. I have completed my PG Dip in Child Forensic studies and graduated from Leeds University with Mervyn Bragg giving me my qualification. I was very excited. I have moved teams within the Local Authority and now assess and support Foster Carers as opposed to the direct Child Protection work. This was a well needed break for me mentally and emotionally. Gareth and I had a fantastic Hogmanay in Grantown despite getting soaked, so much so we are looking to relocate north in 5-10 years to be able to enjoy the community spirit more often. Abersychan may be a small village but we are currently under siege from the "bored teenagers" and "ASBO Kings" and have experienced a significant rise in crime and violence. I was delighted to return home in April for the wedding reception of my old mate Fiona Sinclair (Tranter). We are of an age now when responsibility kicks in and it was lovely to see Simon make an honest woman of Fiona. Apart from that, life goes on as normal. My parents moved to heady heights of Revoan Drive and can be spotted at Christmas by the giant inflatable Santa in the garden. The rugby is as exciting as ever. Met Colin Charvis (Wales and Newport Gwent Dragons) when he joined us in a Dragon Boat Race. I am able to claim dual nationality now having been in Wales for 10 years but there is no compromise when Scotland v Wales.

**ALISON and GORDON McCONACHIE**

No great change from last year. Bruce settling in fine at Napier University now studying Law. Keri now into her last year at Gordon Schools, Huntly – still unsure which direction to go in. Rachel now finished Inch School and heading north to Huntly to join her sister in the big school.



### **CALUM & ANNA MacDONALD (MacKENZIE) (1939 –1949)**

I would just like to say how much my sister Margaret Phillips and I enjoyed the FP Dinner and look forward to the next one. It was great to meet so many people from the past – some I hadn't seen for 50 years when I left Grantown.

### **JAMES MacDONALD (1943 – 1945)**

Another year has passed very quickly. Looking back one of the highlights was a visit to Grantown. We were pleased to “show off” Strathspey to friends who had never seen the Highlands. As the weather behaved itself they saw it at its best. I have recently joined the U3A and enjoyed a number of interesting visits – theatre in London, Canterbury Cathedral, the Planetarium at Chichester and many more. An organisation well worthwhile. Also as a volunteer I am a projectionist at the local Art Centre. It reminds me of the many years I spent in Television Outside Broadcasts. Looking forward to the Nethy Games (2007).

### **WILMA MacDONALD (WATT)**

Another year gone. I'll soon have two non-schoolboy grandsons, but my granddaughter reckons I'm SERIOUSLY OLD, so I suppose it goes with the territory! Have had a painful year with first right then the left shoulder operations, but that's also mainly this old age thing and fortunately both are functioning much better now – while many other parts are wearing out! We had a very successful time with the band in Scotland last year with them winning Grade 1VB at North Berwick and coming second at Bridge of Allan. On the Thursday before World Championships they were honoured to be one of only six bands to march through Glasgow to Nelson Mandela Square. Then at Worlds they had been upgraded at 1VA and excelled themselves by coming third in the world, with the drum corps no.1. Great was our joy, but even more so – a great many tears among their proud parents and fan club left back home here in Benoni in South Africa. My little granddaughter then went on to be S.A. under 12 Highland Dancing Oscar Champion which is achieved by gaining points in competitions over the year, so our proud Highland traditions are very much to the fore in many far flung countries of the world. What a winter we had. Mind numbing, garden killing bitter frosts and even enough snow to make snowmen and sledge – though only for one day! Anyone thinking of emigrating – it's 90% sunshine but can be bitterly cold, dry and dusty. No travel, no visitors this year so will have to look forward to whatever another year brings. Lovely reading the interesting contributions from ex G.G.S. pupils scattered far and wide.

### **GORDON MacGREGOR BSc FEIS**

Retirement very busy due to helping with charity work. I am still on the “fiddle” and continuing to play as a founder member of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra (SFO)  
Grandchildren:- eldest Kirsty MacGregor graduated last year in Edinburgh in media studies. Second – Nicola Smith studying Maths at St Andrews University. Third – Gordon MacGregor has been chosen as seven top chefs in Britain to compete for the Gold Award in July. Fourth- Lynsay Smith going into final year at school. She intends to teach music or do primary teaching. We still visit Grantown a lot as we have kept Ivy Bank.

**RANALD McINTYRE (1939 – 1943)**

Still on computers – still put up things for electricscotland.com. We are fortunate to be on south west of Falkirk – with woods and park within a few yards – good for walking the dog! Very nice to see and read the varied lives of old guard members. Thank you for all involved with the magazine.

**RACHEL MACKAY (MacROBERT)**

No exciting news. Still teaching. Had a busy year at D.I.Y. in the house and now starting on the garden. The idea being to get all these jobs done before retirement reduces income. Still enjoying holidays abroad but nothing exotic the last few years.

**MRS IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) (1948-1961)**

My main mission for 2007 is to de-clutter! On the advice of a friend I have been putting one article per day into the recycling box and far from being a chore this has been all good fun. Cupboards and drawers are now much tidier and I have had a wonderful wander down memory lane. Our usual holiday plans have been curtailed a little bit this year so far, as my husband was diagnosed diabetic at beginning of the year and whilst he is doing very well he has had and still has various appointments at different clinics which have interfered with making arrangements to venture too far from home. We managed a visit to see our daughter and family in Spalding and also a week in Lanzarote. We also have a week in Wales and one in Lake District to look forward to but all in all nothing too exotic! We also have a new grandchild due to join the family in November. I really appreciate all the work involved in producing the magazine each year and truly wish more former pupils would reward the production team by sending in their “news”. No matter how trivial (like mine) it’s just great to read where everybody is and what they are up to! Please try!!

**KEITH McKERRON (1937 – 1940)**

Our seventh grandchild, a boy, Cailean (Colin) arrived in November. His father Charles, of Cyrcermillie and Session A9 is currently a part-time fiddle teacher at the G.G.S. Contrary to previous expectations my wife and I made our fourth trip to Australia to visit daughter and two granddaughters in Melbourne. The children, though born in UK are developing into dinkum, g’day Aussies. Our most memorable experience was the rail journey from Darwin to Adelaide, on the legendary Ghan train, crossing the continent, a distance of almost 3000 kilometres. It was difficult to imagine, from the comfort of an air-conditioned coach, the tribulations of the early explorers who made the journey on horseback, camel and on foot. Again, wherever one goes in the Antipodes, one cannot fail to be impressed by the remarkable contribution made by that amazing tribe, the Scots. Also of note was a visit to the theatre to see Dame Edna and the disgraceful Les in the person of Barry Humphreys, a native of Melbourne, on his first retirement appearance. When we travelled home, after visiting sister Connie in Florida, with the roof of her hurricane damaged home now repaired, we took ship, on a floating hotel (200 passengers) from Fort Lauderdale to Southampton via Bermuda, the Canaries, Portugal and Spain. All in all, perhaps overdoing it a bit for an 85 year old.

**IONA MACLEMAN**

Graduated 2005 in Primary Education. Now teaching in a primary school in Aberdeen.

**IAN D MASSON**

This year's holiday took us to Portugal - first visit there. Elise and Natalie growing fast with Elise in nursery now. Natalie at the age of causing destruction but both still a joy to be with. Work is still keeping me busy with Mum making sure I'm not slacking! Still trying to find time to play drums and golf but getting more difficult.

**MARGARET MASSON (STUART)**

Had a surprise visit from Jim Thomson this summer who I haven't seen for many years. Had a wonderful holiday near Seville visiting my brother Ian and his wife Nancy. They took me sightseeing to many of the historic landmarks such as Ronda with its huge gorge and El Rocci, a Wild West type of town with no tarred roads just sand. There was also a beautiful cathedral. Seville is a very interesting city with so much to see and do. Visited some of the tapas bars where the food was a real treat and something quite different. Also nice to be able to eat outdoors, something we certainly couldn't do here this summer. Happy 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays (past or to come) to all my classmates!!

**MICHAEL MOIR (1955 – 1968)**

Life continues to be an interesting mixture of family, business and travel. Edinburgh is the base but still a regular visitor to Hong Kong. My second year on the Court of Aberdeen University gives an interesting insight to the world of higher education.

**MICHAEL MUNRO (1963 – 1970)**

Our son Sam starts at the Grammar School in August. I can't believe it! His grandfather "Sam" (Edwin) was Dux at the school a long time ago – what an act to follow. So far young Sam is more interested in tennis, golf and football and has been brought up "in the faith" following the Dons. Daughter Kristin (8) loves the primary school. Oldest son Andrew now a senior project manager in Glasgow. Second son Nicholas now finished Uni as a chartered architect. Roslyn still slaving in Yo! and I continue with my surveying practice from my office in the house. Grantown is great.

**AMELIA OAKES (1952 – 1958)**

Sorry we didn't manage to attend the Dinner this year but enjoyed hearing good reports of a great evening. Congratulations to the organisers. Always busy with golf, garden and travelling around – don't know where the time goes.

**BEATRICE G P OLIPHANT (1963 – 1967)**

The FP Magazine is always enjoyable reading – thank you! 2006 was an eventful year of travel. I went with Joyce Meyer Ministers to India in January and was so touched by the many thousands of Indians eager for the word of God and to see such transformations in their lives. Visiting one of the affected tsunami areas on the Indian Ocean was a privilege. Thankfully folk were returning to newly built villages and in their own words "things are better for us now than they were pre the tsunami". Yes! I did do the Princess Diana pose at the Taj Mahal! Heidelberg, Germany with a youth camp in July – beautiful and as usual stretched to the maximum with the youth! New Zealand in November for six weeks to a family wedding (Attie and Betty Grant's granddaughter) which was a lovely occasion. In between times I earn my coffers continuing to work as a District Nursery Midwife in East Sutherland. For all who work for the N.H.S. they know we do earn our living – busy, busy, busy!!

**MARGARET OLLASON (GRANT) (1932 – 1938)**

Have settled happily in my new home in Newport Pagnell which is an attractive little town, where my youngest daughter, Susan, husband Dave and their family live – about half a mile from my flat and so I get lots of visits and outings to various places of interest.

**ISOBEL ORFORD (CALDER) (1937 – 1948)**

It's that time of year again and it sure seems to come round so fast. Our year has been an up and down affair. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we became great grandparents with the arrival of our granddaughter Debbie's little boy Owen. Sadly on 16<sup>th</sup> February Sandy, my brother passed away so we had a quick trip to Scotland and while there our cousin Frank also died so it was not an occasion one looks forward to. On returning to Fergus I had a call from Stan Livingston. He was trying to contact relatives of Jean Paterson and somehow got my phone number so we had a great chat and hope to keep in touch. Later next month we celebrate our golden wedding so you can see why I said we had an up and down year. Best wishes to everyone and keep up the good work.

**MARGERIE PATERSON (MACAULAY) (1969 – 1974)**

Didn't get an information slip last year for some reason. My mother died on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. Dad is still living on his own and managing very well. I try to come up every five or six weeks to see him. I'm still very busy here with various Church activities. Still supply teaching and have two after school groups – bell ringing and Gaelic.

**DR. RONALD G M PHILIP (1939 – 1948)**

This year visited the whaling stations of New Bedford, Martha's vineyards and Nantucket. Learned a lot!

**MONA RAE (GRANT) (1951 – 1964)**

Basically no changes. Still working though past the 60 mark. The greatest event of the year was my uncle's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday – Alastair Grant, Ballinluig, also an ex-pupil of G.G.S. We threw a huge party for him and it was a memorable night. Absolutely loved the reunion – thanks to Janet and team. The hip replacement has made a huge improvement to my life and I'm more fit for the farm where I spend my entire summer.

**DAPHNE RITCHIE (DUNCAN) (1964 - 77)**

I must write something but no time! Same as usual. Spouse still putting up with me. Thanks to Tesco.com the fridge is well-stocked so he doesn't starve. I rarely see the family 'though most of us live in Grantown. Betty Mutch is 96 and I try to visit her in the Keith home most weeks. 2007 was memorable for the town with the opening of the Sports Hall. Grantonians can swim every day, attend fitness classes every evening and if you are really keen, there is a fitness suite with the usual fat-burning machines on offer – all for £20 a month for a whole family. There is no reason for not fitting in to the size 12 party frock – apart from enjoying too much good food and drink when you are not at the gym... Abroad this year with the School battlefields trip in June and returned in October with Spouse on Alistair McKenzie's tour to Belgium and France with a crowd of Grantonians and Nethy folk – Raymond Davidson, Hamish McLeod, Hannah Ferguson, Bill Mitchell, Duncan and Betty Grant, Jim and Linda Beveridge, Ian and Edna Smith, Alistair and Sheena McCook, Shaw and Carole Laing, Jeanette Sellers and others. Interesting visits to battlefields and cemeteries and

great ceilidhs in the evenings! Golfing this year at Grantown, Nethy, Craggan and The Duke's near St Andrews. Fortunately I won tickets for rounds on the latter. The buggy was £40 to hire for the round, so the day could have cost us more than a whole year's golf at Grantown! We are so lucky living here.

**DAVIS ROBERTSON (THOMSON) (1958 – 1964)**

Have finally earned my bus pass! Thoroughly enjoyed the "60<sup>th</sup>" reunion last September in the Ben Mhor. Some of us looked more eligible for their bus passes than others!! Still working part time – for the moment, but becoming more involved in bowling – I have a family tradition to maintain! Granddaughter also keeps me very busy, looking forward to a new addition next month. Best wishes.

**ALEX ROSS (1950 – 1960)**

Back in full time employment and have travelled abroad extensively. Now have two grandsons – Ross who is 18 months and Cameron who is 7 months.

**MARGARET A ROSS (1940 – 1945)**

I look forward to receiving the magazine and reading what the younger members have written. We are very fortunate to have a yearly magazine. Some of my relatives do not have such good fortune!

**MRS CONSTANCE SHAW (GORDON) (1928 – 1936)**

Retired Bank Officer. Haven't managed up to Grantown for some time owing to illness. I still enjoy knitting for the children of Romania and doing my usual educative scrapbooks and playing scrabble. Best wishes to all my former classmates.

**MARGARET SHIACH (SMITH)**

Hope you had a great birthday Margaret – my one is in July and I'm leaving the country! Only joking- it just happens we'll be in Germany on Holiday! We've just got back from Mull and the weather was gorgeous – honestly! It's been torrential rain here most of June. It's lovely to get the magazine and hear about old friends – thank you so much.

**JOHN G FLAVELL SMITH**

I left Vibtech/Sercel at the end of October as I had decided to start a new venture with a group of friends I have known since university days. The new company, Greenrock Energy plc, is a renewable energy company using the earth as the source for heating or cooling – hence the name. I am based from an office in central Edinburgh, which is great as I can cycle or walk to work, as is only fitting for a green company!

**CARL STEWART**

Just finished a long season as chef at Boat of Garten Golf Club. Now doing some beating and having a break. Maybe a holiday in the new year.

**MRS ISOBEL SPALDING (GUNN) (1926 – 1937)**

The '07 G.G.S. & O.G Clubs' reunion has taken place. I am so sorry I have been unable to attend the last four biennial reunions. However I keep in touch with my good friend Mrs Betty Grant (Templeton) and she gave me all the news of this one. It passed off very well she said with a good attendance. After the General Meeting and the presentations to Mr Malcolm MacLennan ex Rector and President of the Clubs

and to Mrs Margaret Masson, our Honorary Secretary, news was given that Mrs Irene Carson was appointed the new headmistress of G.G.S. and will now be the F.P.s & O.G.s Club's President. Betty thinks she will do very well as Headmistress of the school. All enjoyed a delicious meal after the business and a chat to old friends. Earlier in the year I had a nice letter from Mrs Margaret Webb (Templeton). She was a classmate of mine in school many years ago – going by our ages now! She mentioned the reunion and said she hoped to come with Rona her sister and her son. I phoned her later and spoke about our schooldays and the happy times we had. They made the reunion and I got a letter saying how much they enjoyed it, especially the fine meal and meeting up with others and being in Grantown again. I miss getting up to Grantown now. I am still suffering so much pain with my broken bones owing to my osteoporosis and bad falls. I look forward to the magazine and thank our secretary and all who work hard to produce it.

#### **THOMAS B STUART (1937 – 1950)**

Enjoyed five weeks in Sydney over Christmas visiting our son, daughter-in-law and new granddaughter. Flying out via Singapore and home via Honolulu and New York. Could not look up other F.P.s in Sydney as I had left the magazine and contact addresses at home. Have put our plans to move from the south east on hold for the moment so Scottish holidays will still involve a long commute (my English teachers would frown on this jargon).

#### **ALISTAIR SURTEES (1931 – 1946)**

Very little news. Planning to go to Sorrento in September.

#### **ELSPIT SUTHERLAND (McINTOSH)**

Hoping that this year will improve! Gordon's knee replacement is still painful after a year. Managing to golf sometimes and did get his first hole-in-one. Grandchildren flourishing and love their visits to the Garlyne. Catherine (10) hopes to be able to dance at the Nethy Bridge Highland Games. Victoria (14) and Peter (11) very involved with Children's Theatre. (Peter in CBBC play) Euan (8) rugby and history his joy and Katie (5) a bundle of fun and games. We enjoyed a visit in April for a Golden Wedding and it was good to meet up with old friends and catch up with news. Delighted to see Nethy Bridge featuring occasionally on the weather forecast map! How times change – and Bob Dylan isn't even there! Best wishes to everyone.

#### **BILL & RITA TEMPLETON (MARSHALL)**

Earlier than usual this year – I think Margaret dropped a hint when I last saw her, something about her having written up the Minutes of the AGM held during this year's Reunion. Well, anyway, Rita and I have been growing old gracefully (?) during the last twelve or so months – I have been keeping out of her way by running off to golf two or three times a week while she has been doing lots of walking in the wonderful woods of Nethy Bridge. We have had our usual quota of short breaks (we don't have holidays as such nowadays) and we have been to Skye, Fife, Aberdeen and just lately over on the West to Applecross, Sheildaig and Gairloch for a weekend. The highlights of the trip, apart from truly glorious weather, was the journey over the wonderful Bealach-na-Ba (renewing memories of my days in Kyle when I occasionally pulled rank and undertook duty on the travelling Bank's monthly trip to Applecross). Then there was the enjoyable visit to Inverewe Gardens and finally on the return journey to travel on the newly completed fine new stretch of road between

Kinlochewe and Achnasheen. Later on we plan to have a week or so in Fife mainly to visit old friends but doubtless also to have a round or two on some of my favourite courses. But to get down to business. Perhaps I should comment briefly on the 2007 Reunion which was attended by 68 members and friends. It was held once again in Seafield Lodge Hotel where we were very well looked after and equally well fed. Secretary Margaret has, as you will see, written up a full Minute of our Annual General Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. There is little for me to add other than to express my own thanks to Martin and Chrissie Grant both of whom have served on the committee for many years. It was a very good Reunion – gave us the chance to meet the new “boss” – Mrs Irene Carson – attending her first meeting of the Club – and our own opportunity to say a grateful “Thank you” to former Rector, Malcolm MacLennan. The presentation to him was made by Treasurer Daphne in a speech full of humour – Malcolm replied in like fashion – then we floored Secretary Margaret by calling on a former colleague Mrs Sheina Weston (Donaldson) to present Margaret with a garden bird table and some vouchers from us all by way of recognition of the wonderful work she has done, and continues to do, for the Club during a spell of being Secretary for what is now a very long number of years. These presentations were held following the meal and waiting patiently for his turn was our guest speaker for the evening – Mr James Fraser formerly of Nethy Bridge. James, as the Minutes record, spoke of his memories of his times at Nethy, of his pleasant memories of his days in Grantown Grammar. His remarks were interspersed with much humour and I admired the way he spoke without effort, or notes, at such a late stage of the evening. All I can add to wind up this brief summary is to say how enjoyable an occasion it was – we now look forward to the next Reunion in the Spring of 2009.

#### **JIM THOMSON (1942 – 1954)**

After wife number one died I bethought me to get some first-aid training and duly joined St John’s Ambulance. Not long after qualifying and gaining my certificate of competence, I was driving to work when I came upon a crowd at the side of the road and some damaged vehicles nearby; road accident obviously! I pushed through the crowd to see a young lady bending over an obvious victim. “Stand back” I said, lifting her out of the way. “I am a first aider”. “Put me down”, she said, “I am a doctor!!” I don’t volunteer any more!!!

#### **JILL TWIST (HEPBURN) (1952-1965)**

Can’t believe I am now a pensioner. Went to visit my mother (Rita Hepburn) in Sussex recently who is 92 years old and fitter than I am. She lives in a home in the same village as my sister Kay. Best wishes to all who were in my year. Perhaps our paths will cross while using our bus passes!

#### **JAY WARD (1959-1965)**

Golf continues to be my main hobby in retirement. Still playing off 8 handicap but it is more of a struggle now! Bad hips!

#### **SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON)**

We enjoyed the FP Reunion very much, although I missed my usual chat with Gordon McGregor and his wife Marjorie. My only niggle is that not many around my year group attend. It was great to see younger FPs attending including those who live in Grantown. We went on to visit friends in Forres and enjoyed some superb weather and scenery, such as the view from Califer Hill and on the Black Isle. We were in

London helping to look after our three grandchildren aged 13, 11 and 7. They go to different schools and need to be met by car at different times between 3.30 and 5pm. How complicated compared with a dash from the Square to the old Grammar School and no supervision necessary! My brother Keith having lived in Kamloops since he emigrated in 1968 has now moved to White Rock near Vancouver. He has two daughters living with their families in Vancouver and he and his wife Gay enjoy being near them. Before I left Grantown I called in at Walkers for some butteries to take back to England – a naughty but very nice treat!

**KAY WILSON (ROSS) (1976 –1981)**

A big year ahead in 2007 with my eldest son Craig about to sit his standard grades and my youngest son, Cameron will start secondary school. Hoping to spend more time in Grantown this year visiting family and friends – miss them all.

**PATRICK WOOD (1956-1965)**

I have been an exile from Grantown for 27 years now, how time flies and I have the missing teeth and grey hair to prove it. I am still employed with the Highland Council and my wife Sheila at Raigmore Hospital. Our grown-up family are all living in the Lothian area with their own homes and different occupations. This gives us three good bases to stay while we explore the Central Belt attractions. We still venture on worldwide holidays using our local airport “Inver-National” (that’s the joke). In April we had a holiday in Mexico, touring the Mayan ruins. The weather was hot – hot, what with the sun, spicy food and beer with Tabasco type sauce in it we had no option but to cool down by drinking margaritas. At last we have broadband and so I have become an honorary member of the silver surfers. This means that I am now able to use the computer when Sheila is finished with it. Best wishes to you all – keep young at heart.

**HERBERT JOHN WRIGHT & SHONA WRIGHT (CALDER) (1933-1940)**

This year did not start off very well. The weather here was all mixed up. There was no snow when snow was expected and heavy snow at the beginning of spring. In February we had word that Shona’s brother Sandy had passed on, so we made arrangements to come over for the funeral in Inverness. When we arrived, we learned that Frank Calder had died the same day as Sandy, so we attended two funerals instead of one. The one thing that brightened up these sad events was meeting people we had not seen in many a long year. Several people asked us about Hugh Tulloch (you live in the same province, so you should know). We had to admit that we did not know and realised we had not had the usual card from him at Christmas. As soon as we were home, a phone call was made, to be told by his wife that Hugh had died in December of ’05 of cancer of the liver, which was an unhappy surprise. The last time we had seen him he looked extremely well. After we returned, we had an unexpected phone call from Marr Illingworth down in North Carolina to tell us he had met someone, obviously a Scotsman, who asked him if he would like to see a recent copy of his local paper ... which turned out to be the Strathspey Herald (issue of Feb ’07 2007) and there Marr spotted, in the “Down Memory Lane” section referring to February 1982, the obituary notice about Charles H Wright, John’s dad. As we had never seen such a notice, Marr was good enough to send it on to us. We were surprised by the extent of his voluntary public service, as he had never talked about it to us. Not a bad effort for the first? White settler! We managed to have a brief visit with Jean Paterson, but our timing was all wrong to be on hand when her 100<sup>th</sup>



birthday came along. Lunch in JJ's proved to be most convivial, meeting some more old acquaintances and relations. As you might expect we soon got up to speed with what was going on around town. We were told that the school was doing away with the tradition of the three houses of Roy, Revoan and Revack. No one could give us any rationale for such a step. Assuming this is the case I hope someone on the spot is trying to convince the appropriate authority of the error of their ways. Well, we are unlikely to be over on your side of the Atlantic again this year, so we are turning our attentions to the summer season and the better weather. The first really warm day was April 21, so we headed to the trailer (ie caravan) park on Lake Huron (in Bruce County, near Port Elgin) to drop off our golf bags at the local Club and to check out our trailer which lives there year round. As we go northward we pass through a good farming area, where the farmers are mostly Mennonites, who still live in the horse and buggy era. It is as if we have taken a giant step backward in time. We passed seven or eight black buggies hauled by one or sometimes two horses, driven by ladies in black poke bonnets, or men in black trousers and white shirts, sometimes wearing straw hats, like panamas. In the fields or on the way we saw four harrows pulled by three, four and in one case five horses, all abreast. We know that in late August we will see the reapers and binders out in these fields, and the folk hand-stooking the sheaves as it was done a hundred years ago!

(House names in GGS kept as Roy, Revack and Revoan, but now tied up to register classes for administrative and competitive purposes. Pupils joining 1X are in Revack, 1Y are in Revoan and in 1Z are in Revack. – Daphne)

#### **40 YEARS ON**

The new school was opened on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1968 by Captain Iain Tennant, Lord Lieutenant of Moray. On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the school will be 40 years old and the school hopes to hold some form of celebration to mark the occasion.

#### **HERITAGE**

In October, Daphne, on behalf of the FP and OG Clubs organised a stand at the Heritage Fair, held in the School Hall. The stand consisted of a selection of old school magazines, a PowerPoint presentation of photographs and excerpts from old school magazines and a display board of photos of teaching staff over the years. The Heritage Fair was visited throughout the day by most pupils and staff from the feeder primary schools and first and second year pupils, who enjoyed looking for pictures of their mums, dads, grandparents, etc. A selection of the pictures and items on display are on the next couple of pages. Soon there will be a link to these items on the School website [www.ggschool.com](http://www.ggschool.com).

#### **NEW RECRUITS**

**LINDA BEVERIDGE (FREEBORN)**, Cheri Bho, 4 Revoan Drive, Grantown on Spey PH26 3HA

**ROSEMAY CHAPMAN (BAIN)**, 36 Granary Street, Burghead, Moray IV30 5UJ

**SEAN L DUGAN**, Forest Lodge, Nethy Bridge PH25 3EF Work for 6 months to 1 year then travel before going to Strathclyde Uni to study architecture.

**LAURA FINDLAY**, Dilkara, The Haughs, Cromdale, Grantown on Spey PH26 3PH

**DAVID GREEN**, Waulkmill, Cromdale, Grantown PH26 3LW Intending to go to University to do Quantity Surveying.

**SEONAID GREEN (MACLURE)**, Hazelwood, Seafield Avenue, Grantown

**LINDA HARDIE (GRANT)**, Burnbank, Rafford, Forres IV36 2PT

**CRAIG LAWSON**, Beechend, Mossie Road, Grantown.

**NICOLA JANE MACDONALD**, Coille Brochan, Inverness Road, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire PH23 3AX going to college.

**CARL STEWART**, Dilkara, The Haughs, Cromdale, Grantown on Spey PH26 3PH

**MARGARET STRACHAN (Pom OAKES)**, 3 Mackay Court, Land Street, Rothes AB38 7BA

**DIAN JOHANNES TAINSH**, Monzievairst, 12B Woodside Avenue, Grantown on Spey PH26 3JR Gap year then Mechanical Engineering Degree at Napier University

#### **OBITUARY (with apologies for any omissions)**

We have sadly to note the deaths of two long time committee members of the FP & Old Guard Clubs – Frank Calder and John R Stuart with condolences to their respective families

Sympathetic mention to the following F.P. members:

Alasdair Calder, (Son), Shona Wright and Isobel Orford (Sisters) on the death of Alexander (Sandy) Calder

Amelia Oakes, Irene Chapman, Kenny and Thomas Edwards on the death of their mother Mrs Edwards.

Meta Stevens on the death of her sister Alice McCurdy (King)

Alasdair and Neil Mutch on the death of their mother Mrs Eileen Mutch

Rosemay Marland (Bain) on the death of her mother.

The McTaggart family on the deaths of members of the MacPherson family in Uist.

We have also been informed of the deaths of:

Isobel McCallum (McBeath), Inverallan, Laurel Crescent, Oban

Hugh Tulloch (formerly Dallas Brae), 408-40 Museum Drive, Ontario

Sheila McLaren, Rothiemoon, Nethybridge

Patrick McLean, Croftallan, Nethybridge