

FP Magazine 2008

I hope you all enjoy the 2008 Magazine. We would still like to see more members sending in replies. Without contributions the Magazine cannot continue. I'm sure everybody does something over the year that we'd like to hear about.

Margaret Masson

Extract from Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2008 in the Staffroom of the Grammar School:

The Head Teacher, Mrs Irene Carson, opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. She then passed the proceedings over to Mr Bill Templeton. Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer gave a report and explained the accounts which were approved and seconded. Magazine orders and donations were down considerably. Many contributions were now being received by e-mail, but without contributors' donations, no magazine can be sent out. After discussion it was agreed to award £750 to the school for prizes and library. The draft magazine was passed round for approval and a frontispiece decided on. Mrs Carson thought it might be a good idea for 6th formers to contribute to the magazine on what their hopes for their future might be. The venue for the 2009 Biennial Dinner was discussed and Messrs Bill Templeton and Sandy McCook would check out the hotel and prices. The speaker for the night is to be decided. A suggestion was made for a raffle to be held at the Dinner to help raise funds. This was agreed on. The date for the Dinner is to be 28th March. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks.

COMMITTEE

President – Irene Carson

Honorary President – Miss Jean Paterson

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

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2007-2008					
2007	RECEIPTS	2008	2007	PAYMENTS	2008
£1,219.73	Balance - Deposit Account	£799.73	£750.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£750.00
£1,626.51	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£1,635.93	£258.98	Postages (magazines and info slip mailing)	£181.56
£1.03	Interest - Deposit Account	£0.78	£115.81	Photocopying	£112.70
£9.42	Interest - Flexible Savings Account	£15.55	£2.80	Envelopes and Labels	£7.80
£218.00	Magazine Orders	£162.00	£45.44	Paper/Plastic combs	£42.80
£160.00	Lomac Magazine Sales	£154.00	£1,258.00	Dinner (including gratuity and non-paying guests)	£0.00
£478.00	Donations	£339.00	£40.00	Bouquets of flowers for dinner	£0.00
£22.00	New Recruits	£16.00	£269.00	Gratuity for Mr M C MacLennan	£0.00
£25.00	Tie Sales	£0.00	£319.00	Gratuity for Mrs M Masson	£0.00
£1,147.00	Dinner Tickets	£0.00	£799.73	Balance - Deposit Account	£376.65
£269.00	Collection for retirement of Mr M C MacLennan	£0.00	£1,635.93	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£1,651.48
£319.00	Collection for 70th birthday of Mrs M Masson	£0.00			
£5,494.69		£3,122.99	£5,494.69		£3,122.99

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS

2009 BIENNIAL REUNION - SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2009

THE SEAFIELD LODGE HOTEL, WOODSIDE AVENUE, GRANTOWN ON SPEY

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

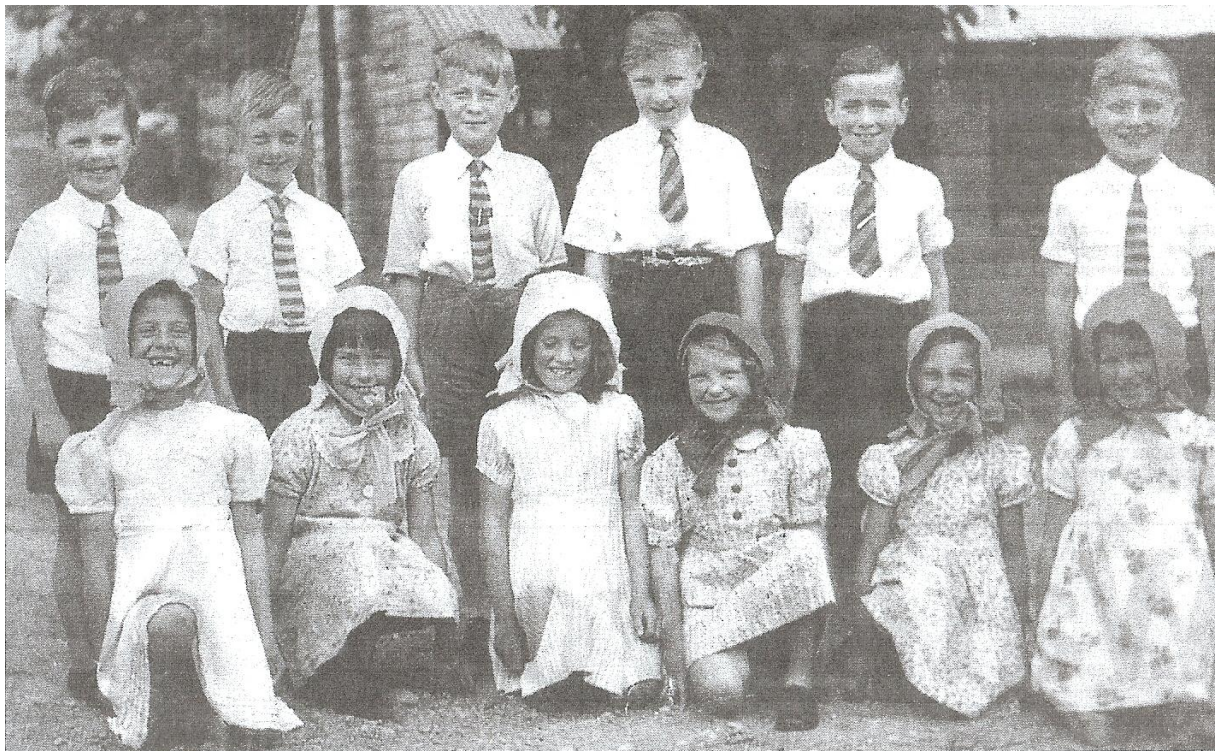
Members and Guests are requested to be seated promptly by 7.20 pm for a short General Meeting prior to the meal being served.

Tickets cost £21 each and should be ordered from Mrs Margaret Masson, Hon Secretary, 18 Macgregor Avenue, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3ET by Saturday 28 February.

RAFFLE TO BE HELD ON THE NIGHT TO RAISE FUNDS

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

Front page photograph of Craig MacLean at the opening of the Leisure Centre, August 2007, courtesy of Sandy McCook. Photograph below of Miss Gray's class of 1939-40 sent in by Isobel Orford. More old school photos are on the school website under an 'FP' link www.ggschool.com.



Classmates at Grantown Primary School in 1935/36 were (back row): John Ross, John Ross, Donald Bruce, Sandy Lobban, Ian Smith and John Morri (front row): Margaret Grassick, Chrissie Grant, Doris Sellars, Isobel Calder, ~~Cathie Williamson~~ and Muriel Christie. Old photographs for this feature be sent by post to 'The Strathspey and Badenoch Herald' at 44 High Street, Grantown PH26 3EH, or by e-mail to editorial@sbherald.co.uk

1939/40.

ELIZABETH MCWILLIAM.

CHRISTOBEL BAHZAD (TERRIS) 1952 – 1965

Still sad at Mam's death but also that I've lost my last Grantown connection. Continue to live in Aberdeen so it's within driving distance. I am very grateful for all the community support Mam received in the three years after Margaret's death, and for incredible neighbours. George and I continue to travel as much as the purse will allow – we leave for the U.S. Midwest late June and plan a leisurely drive around the Great Lakes visiting old friends along the way.

MRS RONA BUSHELL (TEMPLETON) 1929 – 1944

When we meet old friends we usually sit and chat.
We love to reminisce and talk about the past.
Lots of snow in winter, sledging on the golf course
Skating on the pond
We were never bored, too much to do
Spring came along, time to tidy up the woods
Pile the fallen branches and listen to the capercaillie
Such a noisy song
Our summer then arrived
Swimming in the river, picnic on the banks, roast "spuds" in the fire
Cold tea in the bottle, an apple to follow
Then wandered home tired but happy
Hoping for another day of just such.

MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM) 1943 – 1953

Still not managed up north on holiday. Time flies and I also hit the BIG 70 this year in May (getting on!!). Had all the family visiting me on my Birthday. Full house for two days, but loved it all. Hope to see you all soon.

MRS R. JOHN CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH McDONALD) 1947 – 1959

Our London-based son and daughter-in-law came home in July '07 as a surprise for her Dad's 70th Birthday (I knew they were coming) and it had to be kept as a surprise from my husband too! He classed it as "a hell of a shock". Following their visit I was unwell with a dangerously low haemoglobin count and following that my husband's "new" (11 years old) hip gave up, necessitating a "revision". Prior to these two distractions I'd agreed to be wardrobe supervisor for a fund raising panto for our hospice. Final cast was 102 with 59 being young children! I also helped wardrobe for Elton John at his one-off concert in New Zealand in New Plymouth. Summer '07-'08 was very dry – first snow on Egmont on 19/4/08, days still brilliant.

ROSEMARY M CHARLISH (MASSON)

Had a great rip to Australia for my son Kyle's wedding. All had a lovely day and sailing down the Swan River in a paddle steamer for the reception was a wonderful experience. Very sorry to leave the sunshine to return to the cold especially having to work the next day flying to Shetland! Looking forward to a visit from Kyle and Catherine next year.

WILMA COWAN (IRVING) 1942 – 1954

Not a lot of news this year. Sorry to hear Miss Cattanach, Kirkton had died after a long spell of ill-health. The end of an era for those of us who still looked on Kirkton as "home". My father worked for her family for 43 years and I always kept in touch with her and visited when in Grantown.

JANE DALRYMPLE (MORRIS) left in 1976

Eldest daughter Hero (19) spent gap year in India and Paris. In September is going to Camberwell School of Art, London. Son Hewie (18) completed A levels and left school. Other two daughters still at school.

FIONA DONN 1955 – 1962

Have had quite a good year. Am now fit to drive again which is making a big difference as I cannot walk very far. Needless to say I wasted no time in buying another car – about mid May.

SHIRLEY A FINDLAY (MASSON)

A busy year with a wedding in March. Laura and Carl got married and now flown the nest. Claire is working as a receptionist in Forres and Sian still in school. Sian and I went to Germany in October and enjoyed visiting all the sights, with Sian practising her German!

MRS NANCY FORSYTH (JANE A GRAY)

Really have retired now. Off all committees, cut down on gardening – take no more cuttings (the blooming things always grew!). Our two children have produced six children and now we have four great grandchildren. One of the grandchildren, now 15, has turned out to be a first class golfer, yet when he was born he was three months in intensive care in Aberdeen. He has the sight of only one eye. He truly lives up to the Forsyth Motto “Repairer of ruin”. Granny and Granda haven’t found a remedy yet for our wrinkles!

ELSPETH FRASER (MITCHELL) 1935 – 1947

Another year gone and not much to report. I still manage two mornings at badminton with the “golden oldies” group. Find gardening hard going now but sons help out by cutting the grass for us. Our two eldest granddaughters are at Aberdeen University. We celebrated our Golden Wedding last July with a family gathering. Thanks to the committee for continuing the good work of the FP Clubs.

MARLENE FRASER (McWILLIAM) 1930 – 1948

Allan and I enjoying our retirement (12 years on). Our first visit to Grantown this year was much later than usual due to health reasons. However when we made it here from Edinburgh it was mid-May and the weather was absolutely perfect. Our second visit 6th June and on the whole the weather had been good but very high winds up the Cairngorms. There were a load of TV cameras and vans on the hill for “Springwatch”. At Loch Garten the three chicks had hatched. The last chick looked very fragile – I hope they survive. Joan Smith (Fraser), Anne Knight (Grant) came through from Inverness and we spent a most enjoyable afternoon at Revack Lodge, where we had a lovely meal and went around the estate, where Anne was brought up when her Dad was the gardener. We met lots of good friends over the week and caught up with the news. Look forward to the 2009 reunion and meal. Thanks to all the committee for their hard work, which is most appreciated.

ROBIN U FRASER 1951 – 1958

Still enjoying life, bowls, golf and walking. Still enjoying my visits to Strathspey. No earth shattering events happening so far in 2008!!

PAMELA GLASSE (MAIN)

Had another fantastic stay in Grantown in August. Highlights were seeing family and friends, rock climbing, canyoning and joining in with a day of the orienteering week. Eldest son Jamie is currently in Australia travelling and has received wonderful hospitality from Allan Grant (F.P.) and his wife Diane. Daughter Hannah is in the middle of GCSEs and Alex (12) is itching to play on all

the golf courses in Strathspey. I've just completed the London Marathon and hopefully Henry (husband) will be successful in qualifying for the European Paramotoring Championships in Poland.

JIM GORDON 1972 - 1978

Nat and Hannah now at high school but still reluctant to tackle the peaks in the Lake District!

JENNIFER GRANT 1980 – 1986

Have been back in Edinburgh for a few years now – really enjoying life here and it's great to be able to get up north regularly to see my three fabulous nieces. I moved house fairly recently and finally acquired a garden so that seems to be taking up most of my free time at the moment – although I suspect the novelty may wear off if the good weather doesn't hold! I've been working in Communications for the Seafish Industry Authority for a couple of years – writing about everything from safety on trawlers to omega 3 or the Fish and Chip Shop of the Year competition! The variety certainly keeps it interesting and I love it.

MRS JOHN GRANT (BETTY TEMPLETON)

Enjoyed two weeks in Puerto Pollensa at the end of June. Exceptionally hot but most pleasant. Sister Margaret (Cropp) was home from Vancouver. She enjoyed visiting family and friends. Jan (sister) is still in a nursing home in Milltimber. Often have a spell in Edinburgh and Inch with family. We enjoy the grandchildren.

MARGARET GRANT (TELFER) 1938 – 1950

Now very proud Great-grandparents of the most beautiful little girl.

GRACE HARRISON (GORDON) 1942 – 1944

Recently celebrated our Golden Wedding with three children and nine grandchildren. One daughter and her three children live in Canada and we go there as often as possible. We also enjoy a yearly visit to Grantown.

SUSAN HENDRY

Greetings from torrentially rainy, wet, damp, cold Spain- what a delightful spring we are having! I teach English at a state secondary school in a town 30k away from where I live – this in fact is quite an achievement as it is necessary to pass state exams called “oposidones” to be able to work on a permanent basis. In Spain you are the equivalent of a civil servant once you pass these exams held every two years and which are based on a point system in addition to your exam results. Points are given for academic qualifications, courses attended and years spent as the equivalent of a supply teacher (filling in for teachers who are off work). When you are offered a post you have to accept it, however far away it is from where you live, or you get the boot! Since it took the Spanish authorities 22 years to recognise my art school degree and my mother many a trip to London to have diplomas dutifully stamped and sealed by the British Embassy, notaries etc. etc. it has been a long haul. I always swore I would never be a teacher, but I really quite enjoy it and it is good to know you will be paid at the end of the month! Contrary to what one would expect, native speakers are not very welcome here and I am the only one teaching permanently at a school in this province – so much for equality within the European Community! My son, Pablo James, will be 32 this year (since I have only admitted to being 18 for quite some time, it sounds a bit like the immaculate conception). He is in his first year at drama school in Valladolid and is thoroughly enjoying it. He appeared on Spanish TV in a series in January, but concentrates more on theatre. He played the part of “el guapo muchacho” “the good looking boy” in Miguel Mihiura's comedy “Tres Sombremes de Copa”; “The Three Hats!” in Santander's Palaclo de Festivals with their theatre company, the year before last, which is when we realised where his future lay. I do some

design work, drawing and weaving in my spare time, which is practically non-existent, so I don't get as much done as I would like. Best regards from Susan Hendry, Barrio La Castaiera s/n, Renedo de Cabuerriga 39511, Cantabria, Spain.

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

Bureaucracy ensures that getting married in France is not for the faint-hearted. But attending a French wedding can also be testing for guests. This is an account of the wedding of my son, Graham, and his fiancée Christine, held at their home in Serres sur Arget, in the Ariège region of SW France, where they run a mountaineering and mountain biking holiday business. Due to health reasons, my husband Malcolm (Graham's step-father) was unable to accompany me, so my companion for the week was my brother, Stewart MacPherson.

Monday 27th August 2007: up at 3 am for early morning Ryanair flight from E Midlands to Carcassonne. Malcolm drives us to airport, arrive in plenty of time, find all other travellers we encounter very friendly as they enquire about "the wedding hat" plonked on my head. Having paid £2 each for priority tickets to allow us first access to plane, we get in the appropriate queue at the departure gate, get on bus, Pam gets a seat, Stewart stands beside. Then all non-priority passengers get on same bus, standing, which meant they disembark first and have the pick of the seats! Good flight, pick up hire car, set off on hour and half journey to hamlet of La Coupiere, where Graham and Christine live. Countryside very pretty, reminiscent of Yorkshire Dales. All wedding guests being accommodated in 3 hamlets, about 1 km radius of wedding venue, where some were staying. Graham and Christine's establishment is catering for more than a dozen guests, some family and a number of young friends, some of whom were sleeping in tents up the garden. Both bride and groom have large number of family attending. Stewart and I have beautiful gite, within 100 yards of all other members of MacPherson contingent about 1 km away from Graham, Christine, etc. Graham's full Highland regalia, ordered months ago has not yet arrived. All locals aware that visitors are here for "Christine's Wedding" (cannot pronounce "Graham"). Both of them are very popular in the local community. The local police are also well aware that it is Christine's wedding: red hot on drink driving (limit half a pint), lying in wait at every opportunity to catch drunken rosbifs. At 10 pm Stewart and I set off on foot for ceilidh at G & C's, along brightly moonlit county lanes. Meanwhile on same stretch of road, two MacPhersons are being breathalysed, on return from day trip to Carcassonne. Both clear. Everyone else not sober – as was the case for most of the week. Water pipe bursts at La Forge (G & C's place), no water for showers. We trail back home to bed in moonlight at midnight. Tuesday 28 August - family groups tend to intermingle quite a lot and then do their own thing in evenings. Jenny and Tony, who own the idyllic wedding venue with beautiful grounds, have been let down by builders, so all male hands to the pump to lay patio, finish making barn. OK for wedding meal and decorating. Plans for MacPherson barbecue on our patio that night, so Stewart and I travel to big Intermarche in Foix (half an hour away) for supplies. Get huge trolley load, Pam reminds Stewart to retrieve his euro from trolley when returning it to trolley park. Arrive back at gite, Stewart discovers as he gets out of car, that he has left his wallet, containing all his money, passport and all his documents, in the child set of the trolley, in trolley park. HORRIFIC!! Dump food, try to phone – no mobile signal. Stewart speaks very good French, but shock has taken it away. Set off back to supermarket. Have to pass La Forge on way ... inspiration ...Graham working on his sports car (engine had blown up) with his cousin James, both black from head to foot. But Graham speaks fluent French, gets on phone to supermarket ... WALLET HAS BEEN HANDED IN!! Stewart and Pam collapse on each other with relief. Will have nothing bad said about the French ever again. Graham says all locals very honest. Wallet contents intact! Kilt has arrived, but no jacket, shoes, socks etc. All other kilties rally round to see what they can lend Graham. Daughter Caroline and family have now arrived, journey complicated by fact that son-in-law Mick had forgotten to bring driving licence. They eventually got hire car. Graham triumphantly drives roadworthy sports car past our gite, repaired in time to be dressed with ribbons for wedding. All MacPhersons have raucous barbecue on our patio

till early hours. Wednesday 29 August - Sister Fiona and family drive up from Spain. Booked in to hotel, but as staff have Wednesday off nobody there, no food either. The rest of G's wedding outfit arrives, in nick of time! Many guests still working flat out to get venue ready. Big MacPherson get-together including brother Malcolm and family from Aberdeen - a family not often assembled in the same place. Thursday 30 August - Wedding day. Raining slightly for civil ceremony at 11 am. Mayor makes speech in French, says how pleased all locals are that Graham and Christine have integrated so well into local community. Wedding party of close relatives drive back to wedding venue in procession, car horns blaring, as is the French custom. Sun comes out for Ceremony of Blessing and exchange of rings, to be conducted on a small bridge under a canopy, river full of trout flowing gently by and all guests standing around riverbank. Bride and groom look amazing. Wonderful day. Unique wedding. Lovely meal, speeches very witty. Graham makes his speech in Spanish, English and French. Thousands of photos taken. Good-natured drunken bonhomme till early hours. Many bodies walking back to bed along country lanes in pitch dark ... no moonlight tonight ... Graham's step-brother Jack, while giving a young lady friend a piggy-back and texting at the same time, falls over cliff into stream. Both injured but not seriously. Jack loses specs, Emily her shoe. Friday 31 August - Traditionally the guests assemble the day after the wedding for a barbecue, to eat up all the leftover food. But as dawn breaks, it is discovered that (strangely) nobody has remembered to put the food away ... now completely covered in flies. But this is the day of the zombies. Nobody eating or drinking. All clutching bottles of water and trying to pretend that they still have some vitality. Baker's dog brings back Emily's missing shoe, lays it on the doorstep beside its partner. No sign of specs. Caroline and family have missed plane back due to severe car sickness. Stranded till late Saturday afternoon. The Foix Festival is taking place, thousands of bodies throng the streets. The younger members of our party decide they could face the familiarity of dinner at the American Diner. On the way back we succeed in finding a vantage point to watch the spectacular fireworks from the car, with backdrop of the Chateau. Saturday 1st Sept - guests start on homeward journeys, a few at a time. A number do not succeed in catching connecting flights, stranded overnight, but most make it home in time for work on Monday. Many people move to different accommodation for remains of stay. Stewart and Pam move into French farmhouse for 2 nights, a quieter pace. Jack's boxer shorts found on top of one of the marquees. Sunday 2 September - A chance to catch up with the bride and groom, who take us out on a tour of the stunning countryside. Monday 3 September - Early start for flight home, Malcolm waiting at E Midlands. I have texted him all week to relate this documentary ... not a novel ... honest!!

JEAN HOGG (CRUICKSHANK)

I had a bad fall, breaking my hip and wrist and spent many months in hospital. I'm now living in Grant House, being well looked after.

JOHN IRVING 1936 – 1948

Have reached the "Sunset Years" i.e. 77. Not as active now but at least get around on my mobility scooter (4 m.p.h.) Had a visit from my sister Wilma Cowan last year but was unable to celebrate her 70th birthday with her in Darlington. Liked the photograph on front of 2007 magazine. Notice towers have disappeared.

EMMA KENNEDY 1994 – 2000

Currently working as an econtent developer at the Robert Gordon University. Been there for three years now and still enjoying it. Still get home now and again for a catch-up with everyone.

SIMON MacAULAY 1963 – 1969

Assistant General Secretary of Educational Institute of Scotland. Responsibilities include education, professional development, equalities and communications.

JAMES MacDONALD 1943 – 1945

Our annual trip to Scotland not only included Strathspey but the Borders and the Trossachs. It was great to get away from the crowded South East of England. January, February and March saw us going “round the world in 80 days” Another winter missed!

SUSAN McDONALD (LOW) 1979 – 1983

Still working with Lothian and Borders police, based within Liquor and Licensing – very handy when you have an 18 year old daughter working her way through the night life. Boys now both at high school. They intend to spend their summer “busking” in Edinburgh City Centre – may make more money than their parents!

WILMA MacDONALD (WATT)

What a marvellous winter we’ve just had with temperatures generally rarely below –4 degrees overnight and up to 18 – 20 degrees during the constant sunny days. My family are going to Scotland and Germany for a white Christmas. I’ve told them they’re mad but nobody ever listens to the Oldies! My granddaughter (at just 13) danced her way to Highland Champion under 16 for S.A. for 2008 so we’re all thrilled with her. I now have two grandsons finished school with university passes, going out into the big bad world with Liam starting at Munich Uni in October – so I must be getting really old and very much out of touch with my childhood in Grantown. Davis, Jim and his wife are coming out in April next year so am organising Kruger Park plus a gathering on the Indian Ocean coast – so that they feel at home among fellow Scots, I must admit it never fails to surprise me how much the Africaans population of South Africa really love the pipes. We are going with a large group of Pipe Band/Highland Dancing enthusiasts to a Tattoo next month (September) so are really looking forward to that. Having four teenage grandchildren makes me realise how completely out of touch I am with today’s age of computer technology which is their bread and butter.

DOUGLAS McINNES

I broke my wrist in February. I was playing badminton and fell backwards! Perhaps I’ll stop the badminton but not the ski-ing. We were ski-ing in Italy again at Easter. Writing makes my wrist sore, so maybe more information and news next time.

MRS IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) 1948 – 1961

Last year (2007) was to all intents and purposes rather damp but I was not inconvenienced in the least as the rain provided me with the excuse to remain indoors and forge ahead with my “one a day” project. Over the years I have found it quite difficult to part with anything which might be remotely sentimental and as a result the house has become “cluttered” (a tidy clutter!!) and it is now my intention to part with some of these superfluous items. By tidying a drawer, cupboard or shelf each day if possible I have reduced the pile and have had great fun into the bargain! The highlight of the year was the arrival on 10th November of our second granddaughter, Freya Rose McIntosh. We now have two grandsons, five hundred miles away and two granddaughters five minutes away! We are off on holiday on 6th May to Peru for two weeks – hopefully next year I will have a tale to tell about this adventure. Well done once again to all involved in the production of the magazine. The arrival of the magazine gives a grand opportunity to sit down and relax for the afternoon and reminisce.

RANALDMcINTYRE 1939 – 1943

Still working at home with computers. Enjoy research in to the local history. Manage some holidays with touring caravan. Very good 14 days in north Lake District (Cumbria). Driving on our roads in UK no longer a pleasure. I hope John Holmes manages to give his news in the next edition.

GILL MacLEAN

I can't believe it's that time again for the magazine. They do say the older you get the faster the time passes! Life is even more hectic now that I'm a senior citizen! I still work at Landmark three days a week and look after my grandchildren Hannah and Jack three days a week. It can be very tiring but it is very rewarding and I love every minute of it. My mother will be 90 on 15th June this year so we are planning a family get together that day. Unfortunately she has not been very mobile for the last two years after falling and breaking her knee. However she is still managing to stay in her own home thanks to all the wonderful carers who look after her.

Vikki is still teaching in Grantown Primary and Craig is training very hard at the moment in the hope of gaining a place in the British Squad for the Beijing Games. It was such an honour for him to have the local leisure centre named after him. We had a lovely day last August when he was asked to open it officially. Everything went very smoothly thanks to the brilliant organisation and hard work put in by Ian Findlay and the rest of the committee. Since then the Craig MacLean Leisure Centre has gone from strength to strength. It is such an excellent facility for the town and it is extremely well used by young and old alike.

ALAN McTAGGART

Still living in Biloela, Queensland, Australia. Now retired from my DPI career after some 26 years and enjoying the lifestyle. Took a holiday to the Northern Territory recently and thoroughly enjoyed the red dust, red rocks, red sunsets and red sunrises. Got close up and personal to crocodiles, both fresh water and salt water as well as lots of other wildlife. Cruising on a classy catamaran for a week was the highlight of the trip.

McTaggart Clan news in recent times is no good. Neil McTaggart passed away on 29th April after a few years dealing with liver cancer. Anne still lives in the family home in Edinburgh. Joe McTaggart drowned at sea off his home on the Isle of Lewis along with his son Daniel after a canoe capsizing calamity. Susan and many of his large family still live on Lewis. Michael is travelling the Arctic this summer for a month (he is usually not at home!!) Donald and his family are in charge of the USA from his base in Albuquerque. Hamish is closest to Grantown at his home in Kirriemuir where he continues in the teaching profession.

DONALD McTAGGART

It is early summer of 2008 and we have already had some hot days. But we can be thankful that we have been spared the deluge of tornadoes that have struck further to the east of us. At the same time we note that Flagstaff, in neighbouring Arizona, had a four inch snowfall on or about May 20. We are also glad that we have so far this season been spared the worst of a vicious fire season: it seems that now almost every year we have vast areas burned, particularly during this relatively dry spring period.

The State of New Mexico (often believed even by many in this country to be a "foreign" state, not part of the US!) has seen an active political season. Candidates and their endorsers have criss-crossed the country, and visited New Mexico frequently. Although it is a state with a small population, its influence is quite large. Included in its population are considerable numbers of Native Americans – Navajos and Pueblo Peoples of the Rio Grande Valley. It is also home to an Hispanic population, resident since the time of Mexican control, unlike other states where the Hispanic population mainly consists of more recent immigrants.

I have been here almost ten years now, since retiring from Arizona State University. I continue to take an interest in the world of Geography, by doing some teaching for both Arizona State University and the University of New Mexico.

MICHAEL McTAGGART

My brother Neil died on 29th April of this year, shortly before he would have reached the age of 70. His career as a lawyer in Edinburgh was mainly with the firm of Balfour and Manson, though he had retired a few years ago. At his funeral on 6th May at Holyrood Church, tribute was paid to his enormous contribution to the church in a range of capacities over many years. He is survived by his wife Anne and his three children, Elspeth, Rhona and Ranald. Regards to Bill Templeton and Rita.

IAN D MASSON

Quite a hectic year but one of the highlights being a flying visit to Australia for nephew Kyle's wedding. Arrived in Australia on the Thursday for wedding on Friday then left again on Sunday but it was well worth it all. Elise and Natalie growing quickly with Elise now a schoolgirl and Natalie copying everything her big sister does – good or bad!!

MARGARET J MASSON (STUART)

It has been quite a year. Granddaughter Laura married Carl in March in the lovely little Advie Church. Although March, the weather was kind to us and the sun managed to shine. In September I went to Perth, Australia, for grandson Kyle's wedding to Catherine. The ceremony was held in a lovely Church in Fremantle then the reception aboard a paddle steamer sailing down the Swan River. Being in Australia was a wonderful experience and something I never thought I would do. Managed a weekend visit to Kenny and Gill McIntosh and a quick visit to Gillian Henderson (daughter of Drs Henderson). Also managed some sightseeing including a trip to Rottnest Island. On the way over stopped off for a night in Kuala Lumpur, which was another great experience. Would love to do it all again!!

DENISE MITCHELL (GRANT) 1977 – 1982

We have just moved into our new house! We bought part of a field in April 2007 and have done a self build. The house is complete but the garden will be an ongoing project for years to come! All the girls are now at school so I should be looking at going out to work again. Would love to hear from some of my classmates.

BILL MITCHELL 1938 – 1948

Morven and I are enjoying retirement here in Grantown. Golf and gardening keep us busy. We enjoy travelling and exploring in our camper van (when it's dry!!) Last year we had a "once in a lifetime" holiday in China where my son Stuart and family are based for two years. We were thrilled to walk on the Wall and see the Terracotta Warriors.

EDITH VALERIE MOORE (DEWAR) 1948 – 1960

My good friend (from Grantown Primary School days) and neighbour, Iris McIntosh (Forbes) puts me to shame with her interesting article in the magazine every year. Since the deaths of my mother and aunt in 2006, I don't have the same reason to be in Grantown as often as I did, but I still enjoy my visits and catching up with local news in The Strathie each week. With a now officially retired husband, we are able to be more flexible with holidays and have enjoyed visits to Dubai, Crete and Portugal where we played golf on the beautifully manicured courses in the Algarve. Good to get back to the challenge and wind of Moray GC however! I am a member of the local WRVS and help out with meals on wheels and the hospital café. I am also a Rural member and enjoy the variety of meetings we have with different speakers and demonstrators. At the time of writing we are preparing a 15 minute presentation for the "Variations on a Theme" competition, the subject this year being "Weather" – easy you'd think given our pre-occupation with it, but in fact proving the opposite. I enjoy the magazine and reading what former GGS pupils are doing.

MRS ANN MURRAY (STEWART) 1957 – 1965

Retiring summer '08 from Inverkeithing nursery and looking forward to a less stressful life! Off to New York in September with college friends including Kate Brown (nee Miller) and Carol Beckett (nee Stuart) to celebrate our retirement.

MARGARET OLLASON (GRANT) 1932 – 1938

I am sorry to hear from Michie Fletcher that her mother's beloved husband, Myles, died in May last year. Mina (Keith) Ritson was my best friend at school and over the years we have corresponded with one another. Her daughter told me that now Mina is in Cartier Home with Alzheimer's. Mina and Myles had 63 years of a very happy marriage. They were a lovely couple.

ISOBEL ORFORD (CALDER) 1937 – 1948)

After one of the longest snowiest winters since we arrived here, it's so good to see green grass again. Ontario had the most snow it has seen in years and having to shovel it was no fun. It's now May and not as warm as usual makes one wonder about global warming. Our second great grandson is due in June, something to look forward to. Also hope to visit U.K. later in the year. I enclose a picture, a copy of which I received end of last year, with just a couple of corrections. In 1935-36 I wasn't even school age, the same applying to the others. It brought back happy memories and if my memory serves me right this was in Miss Gray's class of 1939-40. Would love to hear from anyone who could correct me. Best wishes to all.

JEAN PATERSON 1912 – 1922/23)

After her 100th, celebrated her 101st birthday in March 2008 – quietly this time. She must be the oldest FP by now I think. She still enjoys visitors and local gossip!! Lisa Shoemith (Niece)

PAT POULTON (LAWRENCE) 1947 – 1956

At last I've made the effort to contact you and I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers me. I haven't been up in Grantown since 2001 when we attended my nephew's funeral (Richard Cook) but I shall be visiting Catherine now she has returned to her roots. I still keep in touch with Catherine and Harry MacGregor. About 10 years ago I did B & B at the Bank House – even got my old bedroom! - quite a nostalgic trip. My husband Tony belongs to Essex but loves Scotland. We were up in Gourock this year to see my sister Beth McLelland. My son Andrew and family live in Houston, Texas so we're off there again soon. My daughter Fiona is close at hand in Chelmsford. Her little girl is 5 and I am having a great time helping out in her class at school. I love it – once a teacher always a teacher! I now have four granddaughters. I had to leave teaching in 1997 due to osteoarthritis and osteoporosis, but I've never let it rule me so I lead a very busy life looking after children, going on holidays, attending theatres etc and thoroughly enjoying life. I hit the big 70 this year – my body says 70 but my brain says still 27!! Off to London again tomorrow!!

MONA RAE (GRANT) 1951 – 1964

Still working at the college and trying to figure out yet another restructuring; it takes up more time than the actual teaching! Fiona, my eldest, finally bought a flat and has definitely moved out – apart from a heap of boxes. My son got engaged. A wedding at last? It took them nine years to get engaged. I do not hold my breath! Sadly we lost my uncle Alastair – who also attended Grantown Grammar for all of his school days from 1921 when he was five till he went on to Aberdeen University. He died on 24 March and is just such a loss. He was a fountain of knowledge and a valuable source of local and family history and we were so lucky to have him for so long. He was in his 92nd year.

LAUREN RATTRAY 1999 – 2004

Really enjoying living in Edinburgh and life as a student nurse! Had a great Christmas and New Year in OZ and can't wait to go back next year! Looking forward to the Edinburgh Festival and a few nights out to be had, I'm sure!

DAPHNE RITCHIE (DUNCAN) 1964 - 1977 or thereabouts

It is now a Sunday in late November and I've spent the day watching the snow falling whilst marking fourth year projects and writing report cards. I'm always last to add my bit for the magazine before I pass it on to Rona in the school office to photocopy. Another busy year teaching, surfing (on the computer that is), taking weather photos, playing golf, looking after house and spouse and watching the garden becoming a wild garden! The wildlife love it. We have squirrels, hedgehogs, rabbits, a mole, pheasants, blue tits, coal tits, great tits, long-tailed tits, woodpeckers and siskins visiting and 4 robins fighting over their territory. Holidays? Odd weekends in Glasgow staying with big sis, Elie in Fife in summer (it rained) and St Andrews for the Dunhill in October (more rain), then Ferring, near Worthing, also in October (when the sun shone). Next year, France. I'm away to watch the Strictly Come Dancing results show to check that the boys, Austin and Tom, are still in!

DAVIS ROBERTSON (THOMSON) 1951 –1964

Finally decided to retire properly! Time needed to devote myself to serious bowling – having an unenviable family tradition to live up to! Like so many other grannies, I'm also busy helping look after my two grandchildren, the elder of whom is starting school in August. Where does the time go? Brother Jimmy and his wife and I are planning a trip to SA to visit our ELDERLY Aunt – Wilma Watt!! (Macdonald)

ALEX ROSS 1950 – 1960

Still working and travelling around. Still get back to Nethy pretty regularly (not exactly Grantown but anything for a quiet life). Two grandchildren and two more on the way.

CHAY ROSS

Continue to work in the Virology department of Raigmore – retirement getting closer however! We are down in Glasgow/Edinburgh most week-ends in the badminton tournament session. Both Struan (11) and Chay (14) keep me fit as I try to take a few points off them on the badminton courts. Struan is the current Scottish Singles Champion for his age and Chay is in the top 10 of the rankings for his so I do struggle a bit. Zoe lives up the road in Conon Bridge and the two grandchildren Charley (5) and Calum(4) have just got their first racket and shuttle so I may well be on court with a zimmer. Jackie working as a Health Visitor.

MARGARET A ROSS 1940 – 1945

Having had my 80th birthday, I reckon I am one of the “Golden Oldies” of the F.P. Club. I attend a Day Centre two days per week. My “voluntary work” there is helping a partially sighted lady enjoy her Bingo!! A humble task that I am glad to do.

MRS CONSTANCE SHAW (GORDON) 1928 – 1936

Haven't managed to get up to Grantown recently owing to illness but always enjoy the magazine. I still enjoy scrabble and doing my educative scrapbooks.

MARGARET SHIACH (SMITH) 1942 – 1955

Had a lovely long chat recently with Lamont Ross. Sadly it was at Neil McTaggart's funeral. Neil will be greatly missed by the Edinburgh legal community and everyone at Holyrood Abbey Church where he gave so much of his time for so many years.

ELIZABETH SHOESMITH (STUART) 1960 – 1972

Quiet year in much better health. Wind turbine and solar panels going now as of today – guaranteed to stop the sun shining! Enjoyed Ann's daughter, Gretchen, being over for a year in Aberdeen. Rita leaving Pakistan for Chile soon. Recently in touch with Gregor Allan via Friends Reunited.

JOAN SMITH (FRASER) 1945 – 1953

This summer I enjoyed a lovely holiday in Canada – exploring the attractions of Vancouver and Vancouver Island and then a cruise to Alaska. Anne Knight (Grant) and I enjoy toddling off to various other places (Jersey is but one) and we meet up with Marlene Fraser (McWilliam). All three of us were much saddened by the loss of Margaret Lawson (Laing) a fellow classmate. As always appreciation and thanks to our hardworking committee.

LAURA J STEWART (FINDLAY)

Got married in March and now left home – one less female in the house for Dad! Enjoy working as a leisure assistant in the Craig MacLean Leisure Centre.

BARBARA STOREY (SMITH) 1969 – 1995

The last twelve months has seen some major celebrations – Silver wedding anniversary and the big 50 – with a combined treat of a special holiday in Mauritius. Now we await another family celebration as Catriona graduates this year and starts her first real job as a designer in a firm of interior architects in Tewkesbury. Dad continues to be well looked after at Grandview and we travel up to Grantown as regularly as we can to visit him. It is nice for him to see a few familiar faces when we take him out and about around the town when we are there.

MARION STUART 1917 – 1929 as pupil

(Teacher from 1939 full time and 1958 – 1975?) Celebrated her 95th birthday October 2007 – a familiar figure gardening etc. Now retired for as long as she had worked – 32 years! Liza Shoesmith (Daughter)

THOMAS B STUART 1937 – 1950

Delayed sending in my form in the hope that some thrilling and stimulating event would occur that would be of interest to report – alas not! Now that my wife has turned 70 and is still working almost full time, I do quite a bit of house-husbanding, DIY and gardening; all very satisfying but not the stuff of 007 novels. However, a couple of travel hints which may be helpful. We spent a couple of weeks in Mexico in February on a little island off Cancun (the Mexican Riviera's answer to Ibiza). The island is called Isla de Mujeres. It is brilliant, a world away from the fleshpots of Cancun and no more expensive. Very appealing for the Saga brigade. Also Eurostar's new service from St Pancras is excellent. For our 47th wedding anniversary we went to Paris for lunch. At least one benefit of living in the South East.

ALISTAIR SURTEES 1931 – 1942

Not much news. I am afraid holidays are now out of the question owing to poor health. I still enjoy reading the magazine.

WILLIAM & RITA TEMPLETON (Marshall)

As usual I am at the last minute with my response to Margaret's request for news for the magazine! We are now well through the summer and only yesterday I attended the Strathspey Farmers Show – starting off with a spell of “gate-keeping” from 7 am to 11 am. It was a very good show attended by a good sized crowd. Rita and I spent the afternoon watching the proceedings on the main field thoroughly enjoying the wide variety of entertainment as it unfolded on the field. The parade of animals was quite spectacular with a very good turn out of horses ranging from stately big Clydesdales to sleek jumping ponies. These were followed by a parade of cattle – possibly showing us the best of bulls, cows and calves of a large variety of breeds. The show must be congratulated on the standard of cattle on view. After the afternoon proceedings I was privileged to attend the planting of a horse-chestnut tree by Hugh and Beth Williams in memory of Hugh's late father, mother and sister, Audrey, all of whom have died in recent years. Dr Williams was a former pupil for many years and a very highly respected local GP. In the course of the last year Rita and I have been privileged to meet in with a number of exile members with perhaps the highlight being a visit in early August from Dr Bill Sellars of Advie. Bill has been a GP in Edinburgh for many years and we had a real good blether. A fellow senior pupil at the old school in the late forties we recalled a memorable four days we spent along with Albert Hastings and Hamish Marshall in Pitfiannich Bothy at the side of the River Nethy in the mid forties. Among other things we managed to climb Cairngorm, visit the Shelter Stone and reach the top of Bynack Mhor during these days. The only thing which caused us to return home after four super days was the fact that we ran out of food – and that in spite of having what we thought was enough for a week!! Ah, those were the days.

JIM THOMSON 1942 – 1953

We have probably a unique Senior Citizen organisation here in Kent; Kent Active Retirement Association. (KentARA) which encourages each individual district to open and self-administer their own local ARA. Here in Larkfield we have LARA. There are 40-odd ARA's with 17,000 plus members between them and we have to be ACTIVE! I am now on the LARA committee and our activities cover bowls, line dancing, keep fit, tai chi, cross stitch, rambles, day trips and longer holidays, to name but a few. Why last year Kentara chartered a whole cruise liner for us and we filled Rochester Cathedral with all ARA members for the thanksgiving service! So what with committee work and pursuing LARA pastimes, the children now telephone to make an appointment to visit us – ‘cos we're never in! I really don't know how I found time to work before I joined the OAP's,

HAZEL THORN 2000 – 2006

Now on jewellery and silversmithing degree course at Edinburgh College of Art and having a great time!

SEONAI VICKERMAN (GRANT) 1943 – 1955

I can't believe that I have been retired now for ten years! Time is disappearing at an alarming rate. Since I came back I have been involved locally with several organisations. The Grantown Museum takes up some of my time. I seem to spend a lot of time organising teas – but it does lead to meeting lots of interesting people. The Fund-raising committees for the Highland Hospice and the Community Car Scheme are also interesting and rewarding. There is certainly no time to weary. Grandchildren, golf, walking and gardening also have to be fitted in. Retirement is very busy. I was sad to hear of the death of my classmate – Neil McTaggart this year. I heard from Rosalind Cousins recently and she also extends sympathy to the family.

JAY WARD 1959 – 1965

Bad hips reported last year now both replaced so golf will be non-existent in 2008 until November. Should any F.P. wish to play Troon, Barassie golf course ...

SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON) 1944 – 1951

It seems a long time since we visited Grantown on the occasion of the 2007 F.P. Dinner and now we are looking forward to the next one. It is important to me to keep in touch and I believe it is only through the F.P. Reunion Dinner that I do. This year we had a new experience. We visited New York. Our eldest son and family have re-located there for a short time and live in Scarsdale, a pleasant suburb of New York. The houses and gardens are enormous. When we returned I felt as if our house was a doll's house. We arrived in a heat wave in June and for three days we did not venture far and were very grateful for the airconditioning. One day the schools closed at 10.30 am because of the heat. Our three grandchildren have settled well in local schools, though are not too sure of repeating the promise of allegiance to America every day. Another first for us was a day trip to Northern Ireland from Stranraer to Belfast by ferry and then a coach trip round the north east and Belfast itself. The scenery round the coast was spectacular, including the Giant's Causeway. Thank you for the magazine and look forward to our next visit.

KAY WILSON (ROSS) 1976 – 1981

Another year on and my eldest son, Craig passed all his standard grades and is now in 5th year and sitting highers this year. My younger son, Cameron started secondary school and loves it. Long may it continue!! Didn't spend as long as I wanted visiting my family in Grantown and as everyone gets older I miss them more and more. Hope to spend a lot more time with my family in Grantown over the coming months.

NEW RECRUITS

HAROLD BURR, Cam Sgriob, Kinchurdy Road, Boat of Garten PH24 3BP
Career intentions: engineer

PAUL ALEXANDER GRANT, 2 Grampian Crescent, Boat of Garten PH24 3BJ
Career intentions: music – wherever the roads lead ...

JAMES MICHAEL THOMAS McFARLANE, Hilton, Grantown on Spey
Career intentions: weapons technician in RAF

KERR ROSS STEWART McWILLIAM, Strathcarr, Mannfield Place, Carr-bridge PH23 3BB
Career intentions: professional musician!

SAMUEL J MAIN, Ponoka, Woodlands Terrace, Grantown PH26 3JU
Sports coaching/PE teaching

FRASER MURRAY, 8 South West High Street, Grantown PH26 3QH
Career intentions: ICT technician following a 2 year HND in Computing at Moray College

PETER J B STRATHDEE, Nethybridge

SAM ROGER WOODS, 17 Dulaig Court, Grantown PH26 3QQ
I plan to complete a Psychology course at Uni and further my 'cheffing' career.

THE PRESENT SIXTH YEAR (2008-2009) – 17 replies out of 45 pupils!

HEATHER BELL – Sixth year is a very important year for all the pupils, as it is the start of the pathway to our future, dreams and ambitions. Being part of school committees such as the Disco Committee and the Prom Committee are big roles and give you a whole lot of responsibilities which is one of many of my sixth year highlights. Art is one of my favourite subjects as you can just let loose and express your emotions and feelings in a positive, creative way. My ambition is to become a successful actress in the screening industry and finally move to the big city of Hollywood, so next time you see my name it will hopefully be in lights!

SOPHIE BISSETT – Highlights of school – basketball at lunchtimes and core PE. Favourite subjects are French and History. I plan to head to Edinburgh University on a modern languages based course.

EILIDH CALDER – Highlights – having the ‘crack’ with mates and being in the senior girls’ basketball team. Favourite subject is PE (the teachers are good). I love sport. Plans? Become a PE teacher.

THOMAS CALDWELL – My favourite subject at the moment is Advanced Higher Art as it allows me to be as experimental as I want and to try new things with different mediums.

CHARLOTTE CLARK – Enjoying being given more freedom. I enjoy my classes that I am studying this year. I am always kept busy! I am planning doing a mental health nursing course in September.

DAVID FRASER – Highlights of my schooldays would be Graphics, my study periods and of course 4 o’clock! I am studying Graphic Communications, Computing, Maths and ASDAN. The subjects that I enjoy the most are Graphics and Computing as they are the ones that are most interesting. After I leave I think I’ll either go to college straight away or take a year out.

KIRSTY FRASER – Highlights? The fact that we have more responsibility in sixth year and being in charge of organising discos and making sure they run smoothly on the night. Sixth year so far has been fun.

GEMMA GORDON – I think all the sixth years have gained respect and support from the teachers. The highlight of my school days has been coming up through all the years and in sixth year being able to organise the discos. I have also enjoyed taking part in ‘Oliver’. It has brought the school together more.

ADAM MATHERS – Highlights? The most legendary teachers.

MELANIE NEMETH – My favourite subject is PE. I want to go to college but I don’t know what I am going to do yet!

SARAH NORTON – Highlights? Being in sixth year organising the prom, discos and dance club and having the responsibility of being a school captain. My favourite subject is PE, doing the Advanced Higher is interesting. I plan to ski full-time in the future or maybe uni?

HEATHER REVILL – Highlights are discos and social events. Biology, Psychology and PE are my favourite subjects. I plan to take a gap year and then maybe go to uni to do primary teaching.

GEORGINA RITCHIE – Highlights? Organising the discos and the prom, the end of term concerts and friends! Favourite subject – PE.

RACHEL SERMANI – Highlights – being a part of the school musicals, Buggy Malone and Oliver and taking part in lunchtime clubs like choir and traditional music band. Fav. subjects – Music, Art, English, PE. Future – something with music, drama stuff, etc.

KELSEY SINCLAIR – Fav. subject – History. Future – going to Edinburgh Uni to study History, hopefully.

OWEN SINCLAIR – My school day highlights are training the younger pupils in the traditional music group. Favourite subject is Music because of my vast passion for music. Future – lion tamer. (Just kidding, I hope. Ed)

JENNIFER WOOD – The highlights of school are the Prom and study periods in Art because my favourite class is Art. I'm planning on doing a Fashion Management course in University.

OBITUARY - MISS ELIZABETH MUTCH (written by herself for her funeral!)

Betty was born on 8th July 1911 in Belfast where her Scottish father was Head of the Mathematical Department and also Depute Headmaster in the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. Britain had a new king, George V, and Asquith was Prime Minister. The home that Betty was born into was quite unlike the home that children have nowadays: radio and television had not been invented, families made their own amusement. Having been gifted with a phenomenal memory which goes back to her very early life, she can remember the day the First World War was declared. She had just had her third birthday.

She received her early education at Methodist College, Belfast, a fee-paying co-educational school. It is still going strong and turns out excellent rugby players and musicians. She always knew what she wanted or what she didn't want and on her first day at school, she made this very obvious. Stamping her foot and refusing point blank to share her desk with the boy who had been selected as her companion, choosing instead a little wimp in a white sailor's suit, not at all the type of male who appealed to her in later life. She can remember also the sinking of the Lusitania. She was a year old when the Titanic sank so she can hardly remember that and the horror of the assassination of the Romanovs. On the untimely death of her father during the flu epidemic of 1918, Mrs Mutch returned with her two daughters to her home in Strathspey. A gifted musician, she did much to encourage the musical interests of both daughters and instilled in Betty, in particular, a great love of Scottish history. As she grew up in Grantown, her early interests were orchestral playing and choral singing and she became a keen golfer having had her first lesson at the age of five. She continued her education at Grantown Grammar School, where in 1928 she won the Harvey Dux Medal and also the Science and Mathematics medals, together with a special prize for English Literature.

On leaving school, she was the daughter at home on the High Street, for five years thoroughly enjoying life, although by no means idle, but in 1936 she decided that it was time to go out and face the world and commenced training as a nurse in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. When this training was completed, she qualified as a Dietitian and Catering Officer at the Edinburgh School of Dietetics. For ten years she was Sister Dietitian in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, running the Metabolic Wards, the Special Diet Kitchen and lecturing in the School of Dietetics. For a short time she was a part-time lecturer at Edinburgh University, attempting as she said to teach third year medical students the rudiments of diet and normal nutrition.

In 1954 she was invited to join the administrative staff of the Infirmary as Assistant Lady Superintendent of Nurses, but a chance visit to Rudlands General Hospital in Haddington caused her to rethink her future. And she decided that perhaps it was time to leave an institution of 1200 beds for something very much smaller. Her years in Haddington were extremely rewarding. She was never overworked and had plenty time to enjoy a very interesting social life. She was a founder member, with the late Nigel Tranter and Sir David Ogilvy, of the East Lothian St Andrews Association and played an active part as a committee member of the East Lothian Antiquarian Society and the East Lothian Rock Garden Club. It was during this time that she became a household name as a result of appearances in a series of programmes called 'Quizborough'. As a result of which she was then invited by the BBC to research and prepare their series for the following year. Her voice was occasionally heard on radio in 'Down your Way' with Franklin Englemann and also on several gardening programmes.

She elected to take early retirement to look after her aging mother whom she nursed devotedly and single-handedly for four years. In 1980 she struck a blow for Women's Lib when she proposed the Immortal Memory at a Burns Supper in the Black Bull Hotel in Chistlehurst in the presence of Britain's then Ambassador to Moscow, who had done the job the previous year. Her interests were many and varied throughout her life - reading, listening to Classical music, theatre going, European travel and later on gardening, bridge and chess and as a last fling, wine making. As her eyesight failed during the late 80's, and she knew she must give up driving, she decided to move to Keith where she had spent many happy holidays as a school girl with her great grandparents in their Keith home, "Benview".

Her reason for choosing Keith was that she wanted to join the Catholic Church without hassle and research her maternal ancestors, generations of whom, Duncans and Patersons, are buried in the very old church yard in Keith. She was very involved with fund-raising for the restoration of St Thomas' Church roof with little wine parties and cryptic quizzes on many diverse subjects from malt whisky to wild flowers. She raised over £1,500.

Although housebound for several years and badly impaired visually, she led a contented existence in Hanover Court and latterly, Weston House. She died peacefully in her sleep in her 97th year.

OBITUARY (with apologies for any omissions)

Sympathetic mention to the following FP members:

Calum MacDonald and Margaret Phillips (MacKenzie) (sister) on the death of Anna MacDonald (MacKenzie)

Alexander Ledingham on the death of his brother William Ledingham

Annette MacGregor (Hogg) on the death of her father Hugh Hogg

Janet Flannery (Laing) on the death of her sister Margaret Lawson (Laing)

The McTaggart family on the death of their brother Neil McTaggart

Frederick and Allan Anfield on the death of their mother, Winnie Anfield (Shaw)

Also sadly informed of the following deaths:

Dr Alexander Gordon, formerly of Heatherbrae, 29 Braid Road, Edinburgh

Arthur Innes, 17 Kynlindra Cres; 16/2 South Maybury Court, Edinburgh