

FP Magazine 2009 As in previous years I would ask for members sending in their slips to please contribute some information or news, however small to enable the Magazine to continue. Best wishes to all F.P.'s for 2010 and to my classmates who write a little note to me on their slips – much appreciated.

Margaret Masson

A Committee Meeting of The Club was held in the Staff Room of the Grammar School at 5.30 pm on Thursday 3rd December 2009. Unfortunately Club President Mrs Irene Carson was unable to attend due to illness. The meeting appointed Committee Member Bill Templeton to conduct the meeting. He welcomed those present - Mrs Seonaid Vickerman, Mrs Margaret Masson, Secretary, Mrs Daphne Ritchie, Treasurer and Messrs Walter Dempster and Sandy McCook. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mrs Shirley Findlay, Mrs Janet Flannery, Mrs Betty Grant, Messrs Stewart Grant and Ian Masson.

The Accounts for the Year 2008-2009 were presented by Mrs Daphne Ritchie. It was noted that the balances held amounted to £1704.65 compared with a starting overall total of £2,028.13 - showing that there was a loss in the year of some £323.48. Mr McCook made particular reference to this deficit in the year's working and pointed out that some action must be taken to arrest this trend. Bill Templeton thanked Mr McCook for highlighting this particular point and said that he had himself been aware of this and had had a close look at the accounts for the past seven years and mentioned that while there had been a surplus in 2003 of some £94 there had been a run of six consecutive years when there had been deficits each year for an overall total of some £1,939 resulting in the overall balances held falling from a figure of £3,643 in 2003 to £1704 as at December 2009. He also pointed out that during the same seven year period the accounts showed that the costs of producing the magazine each year were covered by sales, that the costs arising in the four biennial reunions had more or less been equal to the income *received*. Other miscellaneous incomes more or less matched miscellaneous minor expenditures leaving funding received from donations, mainly arising from the members ordering a copy of the magazine, amounting to almost £3000 during the seven year period against overall total of donations towards the School costs for Library and Prizes of some £5000 over the same seven years. It was agreed that with these facts having now been highlighted at the Committee Meeting it would be necessary to appeal to the Members to give thought to making worthwhile contributions towards the funds. After all it must be remembered that no annual subscription is levied on members other than an initial £2 fee for Life Membership - at least that has been the case now for the past 50 years or more, costs of running the Club tend to increase year on year and regrettably the Club cannot continue the practice of making a meaningful annual donation to the School towards the costs of Library and Annual Prizes unless worthwhile donations come in from Members. **IT WAS AGREED, THEREFORE, THAT THIS APPEAL BE MADE TO MEMBERS IN THIS YEAR'S MAGAZINE.** The Committee also agreed to postpone any decision on making such a donation this year to the School at this stage but to hold a further meeting in early April to give further consideration to the matter.

The Accounts for the year 2008-2009 were then accepted and passed unanimously by all members present. There was no further Competent Business and the meeting ended at 6.30 pm.

APPEAL: If every member (530 life members at present) gave a nominal sum of £5, it would ensure that we could afford our annual donation to the school for the next 3 years without dipping into Club Funds. Of course, more than £5 would be welcome, as many generous benefactors have already been giving over the years. **If you would like to contribute, cheques should be made payable to Grantown Grammar School Former Pupils' Club and sent to Mrs Margaret Masson, 18 Macgregor Avenue, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire PH26 3ET.**

Front page photograph of the new Science and Maths block courtesy of Stewart Grant

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

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS'					
AND OLD GUARD CLUBS					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2008-2009					
2008	RECEIPTS	2009	2008	PAYMENTS	2009
£799.73	Balance - Deposit Account	£376.65	£750.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£750.00
£1,635.93	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£1,651.48	£181.56	Postages (magazines and info slip mailing)	£183.24
£0.78	Interest - Deposit Account	£0.72	£112.70	Photocopying	£95.51
£15.55	Interest - Flexible Savings Account	£2.47	£7.80	Envelopes and Labels	£5.00
£162.00	Magazine Orders	£152.00	£42.80	Paper/Plastic combs	£20.50
£154.00	Magazine Sales (including Grantown News)	£126.00	£0.00	Dinner for 48 (including £40 gratuity and non-paying guests)	£1,000.00
£339.00	Donations	£402.00	£0.00	Advert for dinner	£28.75
£16.00	New Recruits	£10.00	£0.00	Bouquets of flowers for dinner	£20.00
£0.00	Tie Sales	£15.00	£0.00	80th birthday present WGT	£19.95
£0.00	Dinner Tickets	£966.00	£376.65	Balance - Deposit Account	£801.42
£0.00	Raffle during dinner	£126.00	£1,651.48	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£903.95
£3,122.99		£3,828.32	£3,122.99		£3,828.32

MRS LORNA M BANKS (STEPHEN) 1947/8 –1959

Sorry couldn't make the Biennial Dinner. I hope it was enjoyed by all!

CHRISTOBEL BAHZAD (TERRIS) 1952 – 1965

Two friends from Aberdeen, one a classmate from medical school, have retired to Grantown despite my warnings of winter temperatures! They appreciate the local community and lifestyle. It's always interesting to hear someone else's opinion of something that you hold dear.

PAMELA BRAID (GIBSON) 1939-1946

Four generations of my family now enjoy holidays in Grantown and think of it as their second home. Our association with the town extends from the beginning of the First World War when my Grandparents rented houses in the town, and from 1939 it has remained unbroken till the present day. My brother and I received an excellent education at G.G.S. during the Second World War at the end of which my mother bought a house in the town and our present one has been in the family for fifty years. I think we could almost be considered "locals"!

MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM) 1943 – 1953

I must try and find time to travel to Grantown this year as it would have been my 50th Wedding Anniversary on 5th September and would love to visit the Church we were married in. My husband Bill passed on four years ago, but loved it up north. I seem to be so busy on my own, spent last two weeks in my garden (getting a bit past it, so stiff) but love the fresh air. My youngest son, Jeff re-married on 5th March 2009 in Stirling. He is an engineer in Glenrothes. Had two new Great grandsons 18th and 25th March 2009 (Terry and Mason) just one week between them. Now have eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. I remember Pat Lawrence as

she was in my class at school. So sad to read of the death of Neil McTaggart. We were all 70 this year past. Had my yearly MOT last week – passed OK (starting to take care). My sister Marlene and husband Allan visit Grantown often and keep me up with all the local news. I enjoy reading the magazine. Thanks and keep up the good work.

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

Highlight of Christmas mail is receiving the school magazine. We now have a grandchild, James John, born in London in May. The family will be in New Zealand over Christmas '09/New Year '10.

IRENE CHAPMAN (EDWARDS) 1960 – 1966

Have recently completed one year's retirement – long live the bus pass! Sister and brother-in-law (Amelia and Ernie Oakes) visited us in May 2008 so we did not make the trip to Grantown.

ROSEMARY M CHARLISH (MASSON)

Had a lovely visit from Kyle and Catherine this year. Very sad to see them leave again for Perth, Australia. Kayleigh has been doing very well at her course in Aberdeen University and has just another year to go. She visited Bali in the summer and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Ellen is loving her new school, St Margaret's in Aberdeen and still as keen as ever with horse riding.

FIONA CUMMING (LEDINGHAM) 1959 - 1971

Iain and I continue to have many trips to Grantown but there were two main highlights of this past year for me. The first was a canoe decent of the River Spey. It was an exciting adventure over 3 days with 2 nights camping. The countryside was beautiful and the wildlife stunning and I survived the rapids! Having learnt to swim in the Spey I have now paddled over 60 miles of its course and I would recommend it – whatever age you are! The second highlight was in March of this year being asked to open the photographic exhibition at the Grantown Museum. It was a great honour for my father and I that the museum chose to celebrate their 10th Anniversary at Burnfield House with the photographs and postcards of the "Two Ledingham Photographers" celebrating 100 years since my grandfather Ledingham opened his studio in 1908 in Grantown.

WALTER DEMPSTER 1949-1955

It's hard to believe another year has gone. Life in Rothiemurchus is still wonderful. Walking the dog takes up a good deal of time and it gives us ample opportunities to enjoy the beauties of Strathspey. I think you appreciate it even more when you have been away a while. Robin Fraser and Angus Mackintosh are regular visitors and it was fine to see Marjory again. If any more of the old school are around the Rothiemurchus Visitor Centre, remember we are next door. We had over 40 on the Museum Sponsored Walk having afternoon tea in the back garden in the summer. It was only after it had been all arranged that my wife asked how many she would be catering for!

FIONA DONN 1955 – 1962

In the past year I have had a few problems health-wise and have had some short stays in hospital. However these apart, things have been much as ever. Like Iris (classmate from school) – see '08 mag - I also had great intentions of de-cluttering as I had years of stored patchwork and quilting mags plus gardening mags. Along with lots more "might come in useful one day" things. However, unlike Iris, my intentions did not really result in much action! A dry day would come and I'd be off to potter in the garden or I'd decide I really had to work on some "urgent!" patchwork project. Sister Deirdre was not impressed. She is no hoarder of anything. I did relent a bit this spring and consigned several large bundles to the paper collection bin and also emptied a few boxes but there is still an awful lot to clear. Now of course the garden calls once more so no time for such "needless" tasks! Enjoyed the magazine as usual. Good to catch up with folks' news.

GEORGE DIXON

Seeing the obituary of a distinguished GGS dux, Professor Donald McIntyre (1923-2009), in the Scotsman reminded me of two things. First of him living through the wall from the Mhorilehoused Dixons, in Parkburn with the Patersons, in the early years of WWII, and second, that my suddenly landing in a surgical ward of Stirling Royal Infirmary in early May had put matters out of my mind that I should have been attending to later that month, such as sending in my £2 for a copy of the 2009 FPs' magazine.

SHIRLEY A FINDLAY (MASSON)

Despite the girls now grown up there never seems any more spare time! What with walking the dog (Laura and Carl's) when they are working, my own work and still being chauffeur for Sian (the next one to start driving after December) the year passes very quickly.

MRS NANCY FORSYTH (JANE A GRAY)

First time in 56 years have had to employ a gardener, but, a big but, he is only allowed to cut the hedges but not to touch my flower beds etc. My good man, now edging towards ninety is relegated to the kitchen – and we haven't been poisoned so far! Willie does though grow his own tomatoes in the top greenhouse. The great grandchildren are doing their share too, at least they know a weed from a flower! I still keep in touch with Elizabeth MacGregor (Macleod) and Billy MacIntosh.

ELSPETH FRASER (MITCHELL) 1935 – 1947

Regret very much we were unable to attend the Biennial Dinner and hope all went well.

MARLENE FRASER (McWILLIAM) 1939 – 1951

The Reunion on Saturday 25th March 2009 was great. Lots of my friends attended, great catching up on all the news. Allen and I are enjoying our retirement 14 years on. On 12th May we were blessed with our first grandchild – a boy, Finlay Gillanders Fraser. We are overjoyed. Second visit to the cottage was in June. I met all Margaret Lawson's (Laing) family who were in Grantown for the first anniversary of Margaret's death. Janet's (Laing) husband was very ill at the time and has now passed on on 30th June '09, a very sad time for the family. We plan to be up north soon, late July. The weather has been so good. Many thanks to our hardworking committee.

PAMELA GLASSE (MAIN)

New departure for Henry and I as we are currently setting up a new business, "Maintenance Assist". Had a fab few days in Grantown at our school reunion in May. It was great to see so many familiar faces and reassuring that we could all just pick up where we left off, albeit from over 30 years ago in some cases. Looking forward to the next one.

MRS JOHN GRANT (BETTY TEMPLETON)

My sister Jan (Mrs Douglas Mitchell, Inverurie) died in March. Eldest sister Margaret, now 91 years, recently travelled from her home in Vancouver to London (Ontario) to visit family members. No word of making a journey to Scotland. She keeps very well. We have not been on holiday this year. Instead the family have been coming here – they love their visits to Grantown. We are called on at times to care for the grandchildren. We had their dog for two weeks in October whilst they enjoyed their first visit to Northern Ireland. We still enjoy walking – perhaps not so far afield now – suppose one must take the slow lane!

SALLY GREENLEES 1964 – 1976

Looking forward to our class reunion to be held on May 16th. Hoping to catch up with everyone then.

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

A Harmonious Retirement

So, you've finally taken that step into gentle retirement. But is it all it's cracked up to be? Long empty days. You and your spouse stuck together 24/7. You've taken that trip of a lifetime; now boredom is creeping in. But don't despair – here is the secret of happiness. A shed, yes – a shed. Not necessarily HIS shed. The shed could be hers. The shed may not even be a rear shed; it could be golf, sketching, yoga, fishing, carpentry; in short, anything that gives you your own space. Get a shed. (In our case, harmony is maintained by having two sheds and an intercom.)

JOHN IRVING 1936 – 1948

Manage to keep going despite arthritis. (Sorry about mistake in last year's magazine John – should have been toilets – not towers!!)

ANNE KNIGHT (GRANT) 1940 – 1951

See first part of booklet.

WILLIAM LAIRD 1998 – 2004

Just about to finish my Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Edinburgh Napier University. Hoping to go to Perth, Australia for a few months at Christmas with Lauren. We intend to move out there when she finishes her Nursing.

SANDY LEDINGHAM

I am now living in Grant House after a long period of illness. I am very happy here and the food is excellent. I enjoy getting out and about on the mobility scooter down to the High Street and the Square to see what is going on. This Spring I was very honoured when the Grantown Museum chose to show a collection of Ledingham photographs. Many of my Father's postcards were on display along with more recent portraits and landscapes. Sadly my brother Bill died in October 2008 but his daughter Ann Jefferson came over to visit the exhibition.

ARCHIE LIGGAT 1963 – 1976

Still flying longhaul for British Airways on Boeing 747-400. Liz still teaching at Madras College, St Andrews. Daughter Kirsty in 3rd year and making a name for herself as a singer. Catriona working like mad at Charles Rennie Mackintosh School of Art, Glasgow doing architecture – recently moved into her own flat. Enjoy flying my own wee aeroplane which is 1/800th the weight of the one I use at work!

JANE LILLEY (MACAULAY) 1965 – 1971

Still teaching part-time at Aberdeen College (Communication and Media Studies) as well as for Adult Learning (Literacy, Numeracy and Creative Writing) – but hopefully not for much longer, as we plan to move back to Nethy Bridge this year. Husband John working for Oil States; son Andrew married and working as an architect in Edinburgh; daughter Alison studying for a (paid!) PhD in Parasitology at St Andrews University.

JAMES MacDONALD 1943 – 1945

Another year passed all too quickly and I find myself once again replying at the last minute. Looking back I ask myself what was different in the last twelve months – a lousy summer and a cold wet winter. We didn't move to Surrey to have such weather. A recent cruise to the Med helped to cure the winter blues. I've been kept quite busy at the local Art Centre showing films for the Centre and also for the U3A. Looking forward to a trip this August to Grantown and Nethy for the "Games".

WILMA MacDONALD (WATT)

Have just had Davis, Jim and his wife Barbara out for a visit. As they had never been to the Indian Ocean side of South Africa before and as my granddaughter was competing at a place called Amanzimtoti, just south of Durban, I decided for their first week out here in the sun, we could support her at her Highland Dancing, and the family could sample the warm Indian Ocean, instead of the freezing Atlantic south of Cape Town where they'd already been. For their 2nd week we went to Kruger National Park which is always a completely different and fascinating experience. For their 3rd week we went to Pilansberg Reserve just north of Pretoria which is a much smaller park than Kruger. There they paid for all of us to have a balloon trip, which was an incredible experience that one should try. It is very expensive but well worth the outlay. We "managed" to have Davis driving at Pilansberg when an elephant decided to send us in reverse along a dusty, bumpy, twisty road. THAT was SCARY but the sort of experience you can pass on at many a party.

JANE K MCDOWALL (Teacher) 1973-2009 (36 years ... Jim says you get less for murder!)

For those of you who completed a full six years at GGS it must have seemed like a long time then ... so you can imagine what six times that must feel like! At the time I joined the school as a young married of 24 (having taught in Leeds and Surrey before I came to Scotland) I didn't think for one moment that I'd see so many pupils pass through the school from 1st year to 6th: it makes my experience deeply rooted in the community having now spent over half my life in Grantown. What is pleasing is that on leaving I was still enjoying teaching, ironic since apparently I told my mother at 18 that it was the last thing I'd consider doing since it ran in the family! Seonaid McLaren and Margaret McConnachie retired this summer too and my stepson informed me by email today that the article in The Strathie that records our 'passing' is accessible online at: http://www.strathspeyherald.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/4399/School_s_out_for_teachers.html

The last day of school was emotional and I shall treasure the messages and gifts from pupils, parents and staff alike. A special memento is the electric piano I was able to buy with the combined gift from staff and gratuity from Highland for over 30 years' service. Now I have no excuse not to dust down the music from when I last played at 18 and persuaded my mother that I had to give up lessons, as there was no time to practise!

Another special event was being invited by Daphne Ritchie to join the re-union at the Ben Mhor Hotel for the class that turned the BIG 50 this year! Good to see so many well kent faces from the past ... and not feel too much older than them! The FP and Old Guard Club dinner at Seafield Lodge Hotel was another first for Jim and me.

I'm looking forward to being able to ski in the winter (if there's snow) without having to suffer queues at weekends; going for a walk on a beautiful day instead of being confined to the school building; visiting friends who live further away; travelling; doing some writing; being a 'lady that lunches' (until the novelty wears off!); pottering in the garden and generally having some 'me' time. And then, once I've re-charged my batteries hopefully there will be the opportunity to look for a new angle to occupy my time and consider a further degree course.

IAN MacGILLIVRAY 1938 – 1943

Retired Assistant Rector, Buckhaven High School

GORDON MacGREGOR 1938 – 1951

A founder member I am still playing with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, now in its 29th year. All profits go to charities. Grandchildren: - Kirsty, the eldest, graduated from Edinburgh University and works with Newline Scotland. Nicola will graduate this summer with an honours degree in Mathematics at St Andrews University. Gordon is a chef and has been successful in gaining gold,

silver and bronze awards. He successfully led the junior chef/Olympic team to a silver. Lyndsey is studying Nutrition and Hygiene at Dundee University.

DOUGLAS McINNES

Sorry to be so late – I'll try harder next year!!

MRS IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) 1948 – 1961

On checking my diary this morning (22.05.2009) I discovered I had given myself a memo to "send my contribution to School Magazine". Therefore without further ado I shall obey my instruction!! 2008 was the year of the holidays for Harry and myself. 15 weeks in all but if we count in the time needed for preparing for going on holiday and the time for unpacking, washing and ironing on return, the fifteen weeks become nearer thirty! Even the dog was becoming quite confused wondering how long he would have to explore his garden before he would have to pack his case again and head off once more to the kennels. However we promised him a bit less travelling in 2009 although we are having a Baltic Cruise in July to celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary, which was on 12th April. Our grandchildren continue to delight us – our older grandson Alistair starts Grammar School in Spalding in September and our older granddaughter Abigail starts Primary School in Lhanbryde in August. The years are passing too quickly but as long as we are well and able to enjoy life we will not complain.

DONALD B McINTYRE

Greetings to all. I very much regret I am unable to attend the Dinner, much though I would like to. I am 85 now (Class of 1942) and have Parkinson's disease making it impossible for me to travel. With best wishes. (Please see Obituary as Donald has since died)

RANALD McINTYRE 1939 – 1943

Much the same as last few years – computers – e-mails and internet. Still enjoy holidays with car and caravan – but within the UK. I have managed to phone John Holmes in Australia – see his entry in 2003 issue.

GILBERT MACKAY 1949 – 1956

Now retired from my chair at Strathclyde University, and glad to be able to spend more time with my family, bike and bagpipe.

KEITH McKERRON 1937 – 1940

Regret unable to attend the Re-union due to health problems.

MRS ELIZABETH MARGARET McLELLAND (LAWRENCE) 1947 – 1952

Had a total (right knee) replacement in December. Still a case of one step forward and two back but I'm getting there. To date can't complain about the N.H.S. My daughter continues to teach in spite of all the changes in the education system. My granddaughter Jenna is 10 years old and enjoys dancing classes (ballet, jazz etc.) Grandson Jonathan 9 years old is very keen on swimming and football. I still keep in touch with Rita Templeton. She keeps me up to date with news of old classmates

ALAN McTAGGART

Hi from Australia! Has not been good times for the McTaggart clan with brother Joe drowning at sea off the Hebrides in June 2007 along with his son Daniel. Brother Neil passed away in April 2008 after a number of years fending off the Big C. So now we are down to 4 surviving of the original 7 and hope we can avoid calamities in the immediate future!! I have retired and enjoy community work in a variety of forms that keeps my mind active and my hands busy. Rotary is still a major activity but Probus beckons as the muscles weary more quickly with every passing

year. No major travel planned since our three week stint in the Northern Territory last June which almost counts as International travel. It really is a great place to visit and if you “never never go” you will never never know! Michael is still based in Basingstoke but travels a bit. Donald is trying to retire (and failing) in Albuquerque. Hamish is in Kirriemuir and teaching. Best wishes on all efforts with the magazine and to all former pupils who may have faint memories of the class of around the mid fifties.

DONALD McTAGGART 1944 – 1951

Retired from Arizona State University but still teach courses there, and at University of New Mexico, Department of Geography.

IAN D MASSON

Had a couple of enjoyable breaks this year. Met up with Scott, Mandy Macdonald and their young daughter Jade in Gran Canaria. Needless to say our two girls and Jade had a great time in the sunshine. Went to Ireland to catch up with friends of the family. Otherwise work as usual and learning new beatings for the Pipe Band.

MARGARET J MASSON (STUART)

All the grandchildren from 26 year olds to three year olds keep me on my toes. Lovely to have Kyle and his new bride Catherine over from Australia for a visit, then Joy Collie (Muirden) and her baby Arla from New Zealand. Kept busy with the local Arthritis Care group in the town where we organise various speakers, bus run, Christmas Dinner and Burns Supper with local artistes providing entertainment. Still have a good group attending the F.P. swimming session on a Tuesday evening.

MICHAEL MOIR 1955 – 1968

In October 2007 our daughter, Nicola produced our first grandchild, Lachlan and another is due in May. This certainly adds a wonderful new dimension to our lives.

MRS ANN MURRAY (STEWART) 1957 – 1965

Am coming to terms with retirement from teaching, have had nearly a year of not having to get up on dark, cold mornings! Daughter Eilidh is getting married in Nethy Village Hall in July, so lots of activity on that front, especially as she’s in London. I think a holiday might be needed after that!

AMELIA OAKES (EDWARDS) 1952 – 1958

Still busy in retirement. A lot of time spent on the golf course and in the garden with varying degrees of success! Our daughter Yvonne is coming from New Zealand for a two day conference in Birmingham at end of March and we’re looking forward to having her here for ten days afterwards. Hope we’re snow free by then.

MARGARET OLLASON (GRANT) 1932 – 1938

Despite my age, now 88, which means I do not recognise many of those who contribute – though I might know some of their grandparents! I always enjoy the magazine and thank those who work so hard to keep it going. Sadly my travelling days are now over, but I am glad to have seen some great parts of the world - on our safari in Kenya and North India and Tibet – lovely holidays in Venice and many months in the south of France where my son, John, has a summer holiday home and where over the years I have practised my French with much pleasure and laughter. Like everyone else I have had my share of ups and downs – great joys and sorrows, but always I have been so grateful to have been born in beautiful Nethy Bridge and to have gone to Grantown Grammar School – I couldn’t have had a better start.

ISOBEL ORFORD (CALDER) 1937 – 1948

Here we are again another year gone. After a winter we would rather forget it's great to see some colour again. Spring is very short here and we don't see daffs and tulips in bloom till May, then in June everything seems to come to life. In the latter part of last year and the beginning of this both my husband and myself spent quite some time in hospital, glad to say we are both well on the mend and God willing we hope to visit Grantown in August, though I'm afraid there's not many folks we recognise these days. Just like to wish everyone all the very best and keep up the good work.

JEAN PATERSON 1912 – 1922/23

Celebrated 102nd birthday in March with tea party in Grant House. This year Jean and Marion have become great great aunts with the birth of Max to Katy Norman and Jasmine to Rachel Paterson. (Liza Shoemith, niece)

MRS MONA RAE (GRANT)

Life just plods on towards retirement and I have my first grandchild to look forward to in the new year. I was beginning to doubt it would ever happen.

LAUREN RATTRAY 1999 – 2004

Really enjoying second year at university – on placement at the moment in theatres at the Murrayfield Hospital. Hoping to do my elective placement in Perth, Australia at Christmas. Meeting up with the girls from school this weekend – we are all off to the X Factor tour!

WILLIAM T REID 1952 – 1962

I am approaching retirement as senior partner of the law firm I have been with since 1970. The youngest of our three sons was 30 this year and our daughter with her three children and husband are in Melbourne, Australia. Our eldest son is an engineer in England, and our middle son an outdoor instructor is married and lives just outside Edinburgh. The youngest works in Dublin as an environmental scientist. Andrew, my brother now lives at 70 Evenlode Crescent, Coventry CV6 1BY. He has been retired for some years now. He is married and has a son and daughter and 3 grandchildren.

DAPHNE RITCHIE (DUNCAN) 1964-77

I'm just flicking through my diary to see where 2009 went. It was quite busy... January (and almost every other month): school, swimming and weekly keep fit class; February: 2 snow days, clearing lots of snow, cross-country skiing along the railway line behind the house past the old station and Christmas Lights Dance; March: FP Dinner, choir practices, staff choir performing at the Kingussie festival, school discos and parents' nights; April: school holidays, partly in school, filing, clearing out, spring cleaning classroom, gardening, visits to the Potting Shed at Inshriach Nurseries (wonderful cakes), the Wildlife Park, Ladies Opening Night at Grantown Golf Club, entertaining the in-laws with cycle runs to Castle Grant and along the river to the Old Cemetery, school quiz night and Craggan Golf Club opening; May: long weekend in Elie, Fife, brilliant class reunion in the Ben Mhor Hotel and golf, including the Mustard Trophy at Nethy Golf Club. June: entertaining the in-laws with visits to the Funicular Railway, Cairngorm and the Potting Shed at Inshriach, staff golf match against Kingussie staff, Grantown Golf Club Championships (runner up, Handicap section), Boat of Garten Ladies Open, Nethy Gardens Open Day, gardening and also fell off my bicycle! Nothing broken, just cuts and bruising. July: Jane McDowall and Seonaid McLaren's retirement parties, supervising the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award's expedition from Forest Lodge to Tomintoul via the River Avon and Inchrory, a few days in Glasgow with my mum, dog-sitting for a fortnight for a big black lab, year end accounts for

school fund, golf and gardening. August: 5 days in Northern Ireland, staying at Ballygally near Larne, dressing up as cancan dancers for the Strathspey Thistle Golf Tournament, Murdie McKenzie Mixed Open (spouse and I were second) at Grantown Golf Club and the Harley Davidson bikes were in town (an amazing number of bikes this year); September: golf - Porter Salver at Grantown Golf Club (won it!) and my birthday; October: my fancy dress birthday party, a week in Normandy with Alistair and Stella McKenzie, gardening and a Halloween party in the Grant Arms Hotel in aid of Motor Neurone, organised by Neil Mutch. November: weekend in Peebles and 3 nights in Copenhagen with the Beveridges and Duncan and Betty Grant; December: became a great aunt (Cara and Iain Brooks had a 6lb 5oz baby girl, Anna Isobel), updating the addresses in the FP magazine and popping them in envelopes, FP Club meeting, and making teas for the school show (4 nights), school Christmas parties and Christmas in Whitehills. There – done it! Another exciting year... (How can anyone say they have nothing to report? I could have made it last for pages!)

DAVIS ROBERTSON (THOMSON) 1951 – 1964

Now semi-retired – still doing a little supply teaching to fund holidays and additions to the family – currently awaiting the arrival of my third grandchild. Brother Jimmy, his wife and I are visiting aged aunt!! (Wilma Watt) in S.A. for a month in May – included visits to Durban (for a Pipe Band Championship/Highland Dancing competition), Kruger Park and Sun City. As well as the above I'm president of the Ladies Section of my bowling club this year – just to ensure I don't become bored!!

MICHAEL G RONALDSON 1931 – 1941

I am still actively involved in Church affairs both at Presbytery and Congregational levels. I'm current convenor of the Presbytery of Inverness World Mission committee, the office I have held for the past 6 years and convenor of my Church committee. I am also secretary of "Unite" the Federation of Royal Mail and BT pensioners. I have now been retired for 17 years having retired from BT at the age of 65 after having served 50 years with the G.P.O. then British Telecom.

PATRICIA H ROSS (MACDONALD)

My husband passed away in March. I have a problem seeing. My grandson is going to be going for a 2 week stay in July to the Piping College in Glasgow, and then will spend a week with my brother in Cromdale.

WALTER ROSS 1945 – 1958

This year I have visited North and South India, Cuba and Montenegro, making up for the last time. Travel certainly broadens the mind as the sights I have visited had been truly magnificent and well worth the long journeys

MARGARET (RITA) SEQUEIRA (STUART) 1955 – 1963

Rita and George have moved to Chile from Pakistan much to the relief of their families! She's keen for us all to visit but it's a long, long journey! (Liza, sister)

MARGARET SHIACH (SMITH) 1942 – 1955

Missed my spring holiday to Sicily as I had to have some minor surgery but decided to have a change of island and we are hoping to get to Malta in September!

CARL & LAURA J STEWART (FINDLAY)

Kept busy at the Craig MacLean Sports Centre in Grantown and the Sports Centre in Kingussie two days a week. Mum is very good at taking our dog out for a walk when Carl and I are working. Carl now works in Forres so is away all day.

BARBARA STOREY (SMITH) 1969 – 1995

Dad is keeping as well as can be expected. Rachel is up visiting him at the moment and I will be up for a few days in November.

ELIZABETH SHOESMITH (STUART) 1960 – 1972

I've been in contact with quite a few old schoolmates this year, notably Gregor and Sandy Allan, Helen Fraser and Jean MacGillivray. Still enjoying family and local history. Now into our 9th generation of Patersons with the birth of Max and the 11th generation of the Stewart line. Planning a course to update my genetic knowledge. Home for Auntie Jean's 102nd in March.

MRS ISOBEL M SPALDING (POPPY GUNN) 1926 – 1937

I look forward so much to reading the GGS Magazine each year and am sorry I missed filling in the form for the '08 one, and so no news from me in it. I'll try and do better this year. I keep remembering my happy days growing up in Grantown from the age of three, along with my brother Don who was four. We were both born up north. My mum's home was in Rosehall, Sutherlandshire. Dad's was in Thurso, Caithness – a real Gunn who served in the 14/18 World War as a sergeant in the M.G. core (Machine Gun). Apparently they were close friends, and he came back safely. They married in 1920 and Don was born in 1921, and I was born in 1922 a year later. I think we lived in Inverness shortly before moving to Grantown. Back to schooldays. I remember going to Grantown Grammar School when I was four along with brother Don who was five. I did very well at school, still remember all my teachers from Miss Gray, Miss Butter, Miss Duncan, Miss Reid, Miss Alanach, Miss Legge and Miss Lawson (Q.C.) and all the Higher Grade ones also. I did very well in my Day School Certificate Higher in 3rd year and carried on to 4th year. My Mum was a teacher before she married and brought us up well. I always said I wanted to be a hairdresser. I was given the chance to start training in McIntosh & Cumming's shop and Hair Salon in Grantown. I finished 4th year in school and was then 15 years old. My Mum was quite pleased to let me have my wishes and I started my training in the Salon under a very nice hairdresser and went on to Glasgow School of Hairdressing to finish my training for perming etc. under a fine hairdresser in charge and after about two years, back fully qualified to run the Grantown Salon, where I working for 21 years not counting my ATS 3 ½ years when called up in 1942 to serve in the second World War. I came back safely in 1946 and back to the Salon to continue running it and catching up with my old customers, and many others from all round Grantown. I enjoyed all my years at MacIntosh & Cumming and still a good friend to the Templeton family whose uncle ran the shop. I met my husband Pete in '48 when he was moved to Grantown still in the REME and we got engaged for four years, while he finished his last year in the Forces and carried on working in our REME Depot. I said he would need some money before thinking of marriage and we were very happy and married in 1952 in Mannofield Parish Church. Happy memories of Sunday School there and attending Church with my family. Pete was moved to Aberdeen in 1965 to Contract Repair Branch REME when Neil was just 3 years old so life goes on there. Had a very happy 48 year marriage then Pete passed away in August 2000.

MARION STUART 1917 – 1929 as pupil

Celebrated her 96th birthday October. Continues as volunteer at Heritage and in her garden. Liza Shoesmith (Daughter)

THOMAS B STUART 1937 – 1950

Holiday in Kenya. Why the train was late!! I awoke slowly to realise that the train had stopped. It was eerily quiet. My wife was blissfully asleep on the lower bunk. Outside the African plain was lit up by a full moon but nothing stirred and the silence remained. This was obviously not a scheduled stop. We had boarded the train at Mombasa for the overnight journey to Nairobi, a

distance of some 300 miles and a duration of 14 hours. The route was part of the Rift Valley railway, built during Kenya's colonial days, and still using the same coaches and even the same crockery in the dining car. We had been warned that the train never ran to time and sure enough we were almost an hour late leaving Mombasa. Eventually the train restarted but I had difficulty getting back to sleep and there were several more similar stops before I did finally drop off to sleep again. In the morning at breakfast I mentioned the stops during the night to the waiter. Yes he said "we have to stop to allow the elephants to cross the track". I thought the RSPCA would approve of this consideration before he continued "if we hit an elephant we would be derailed". True to predictions we arrived in Nairobi three hours late, but attributing the delay to "Elephants crossing" somehow had a more exotic ring to it than "signalling fault at Doncaster".

MRS ELSPIT SUTHERLAND (McINTOSH)

Were in the Shetland Islands to renew old friendships, then Nethy Bridge and on both visits we got the rain. Sun arrived as soon as we left – lucky family who arrived after us! Been busy this year with the 90th anniversary of the R.A.F and we enjoyed the various receptions and celebrations. Looking forward to visit at Easter and hope that not too many mice have taken refuge from the snow.

WILLIAM & RITA TEMPLETON (Marshall)

Not too bad a summer this year – at least it was better than last year! Rita and I had our usual spring holiday in Oban and again we were lucky with the weather and we got around quite a bit and were able to enjoy several good walks. In late June we had the best part of a week in Skye – visiting old haunts. We stayed in a super B&B in Portree but seemed to meet only a few old friends. Spent most of July and August at home entertaining family members on holiday now and again but with the grandchildren growing up it is becoming more and more difficult to keep up with them. I have not played near so much golf this year (again getting old?) and when I did play I found myself on the losing side more often than before. From the Former Pupils' Club point of view the highlight of the year was the Biennial Reunion at the end of March in Seafiel Lodge Hotel. There was a reasonable number present and it was good to see so many old and new friends. We thoroughly enjoyed the guest speaker – Miss Ailsa Wilson, Q.C., who was introduced by Sandy McCook who had been a fellow pupil of hers in the '70's. Rita and I finished off our holiday season with a few days in Pitlochry in late September and again we were lucky with the weather. We enjoyed a few runs and I played golf this year on the super nine hole course at Kenmore. It is maybe a nine hole course but it is no short walk. The yardage is just over 3000 yards and there are two par 5's and three par fours which are over 400 yards each. A full round (18 holes) there is a fair walk! We also enjoyed two nights in the Pitlochry Festival Theatre including this year's classic musical which was an adaptation of the wartime film "Whisky Galore". Now in early November with the early dark nights now in full swing I am conscious that Margaret is patiently waiting for my annual note for "News from the Outposts" for the magazine so I had better get it finished and handed in.

JAY WARD 1959 – 1965

I came home to the Boat this year with my brother Grant and our nephew also Grant, son of our sister Mary. She raided her family in Melbourne and this was Grant's first visit since 1980. Good to see old friends again. Also I was pleased that one F.P. (more correctly, son of an F.P.) joined me at Barassie for a golf game. Anyone else fancy a game?

SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON) 1944 – 1951

Roy and I enjoyed the Reunion very much. I was especially pleased to meet up with Gordon and Marjorie MacGregor. Gordon was and still is a great organiser and kept our little group busy with badminton, football and Youth Club activities. I missed seeing Sheena and Shona but I did meet another former pupil of Keith's year. We were visiting friends in Forres after the Reunion and

met their friends Elizabeth and Bill Bremner – Elizabeth MacKenzie that was. She was able to tell me lots about Grantown long ago. Since the Reunion we have been visiting our family in London doing the school run and finding London traffic less busy than it used to be. We had a visit from another F.P. – Stanley Wright and his wife Margaret. He and I used to be next door neighbours in the Square. They live in Frome, Somerset, but their son, an architect is renovating a shepherd's cottage on the Northumberland moors. Roy has attended the Reunion so many times he is almost accepted as an F.P. Now he has found another link as he shares the same birth date as our illustrious chairman, Bill Templeton!

SEONAIID VICKERMAN (GRANT) 1943 – 1955

2008 saw me hit the big 70. I had an absolutely lovely year – culminating in a 3 week visit to South Africa in January/February 2009. We visited the Kruger National Park (saw the big 5), the Drakesberg Mountains, the Garden Route, Cape Town, Robin Island – and, for me, the highlight – Cape of Good Hope – a memorable trip. This year I am very involved in fund raising for both the Highland Hospice and the Museum, not to mention a busy time at the Golf Club – plenty to do – and not enough time to do it. A good complaint I feel.

MEMORIES of REVACK (1934 – 1955)

Written by Anne Knight (Grant)

Part One

Revack lodge belonged to the Countess of Seafield who lived at Cullen House (on the East coast), Kinveachy Lodge, near Aviemore or abroad but never at Revack which was always let out as a shooting lodge for approximately six weeks during the year.

As you look at the lodge from the Restaurant on the right, first of all, was the coal shed behind which, looking down towards the cottage, was the outhouse where my father meticulously kept all his gardening tools etc. (His spade was never put away for the night without being polished!!) Writing, in his hand, lists of vegetables, can still be seen on the wood round the door. Next to that was the power outhouse where lighting was somehow produced before the National Grid was connected in the thirties. This little room was subsequently turned into an outside toilet where, during World War 2, some budding poets had left their mark.

On the same wing but now inside the lodge was the billiard room. This room was something to behold. Fully lined in pitch pine with a full size billiard table and lit canopy. After the war it was turned into a log cabin and lined with untreated wooden backs. We knew they could not have been treated as the whole room became infested with beetles, which had to be swept up. Beyond that there were two small rooms one of which was used for keeping the guns for the shoot. Down below were the cellars. I can never remember seeing any wine down there!!

Looking now at the left side of the lodge we see the boiler house and, once inside the lodge through the back door, on the left was the kitchen (now the drying room) and scullery where some poor servant would be up to her armpits in soapy water washing huge pots and pans after the preparation of three huge meals a day for a houseful of people including all the staff. There was never any waste of food, however, as all the leftovers were collected by a man who kept pigs. Along the passage from the kitchen on the right was the cold room where all the food was kept fresh. It was dark with a stone floor, a necessity before fridges or electricity came along. On the left what was called the “servants’ hall” which we used as a sitting room, and further along the passage and round the corner before the green baize door on the right was a room we used as a bedroom when we were in residence. Above this passage was the drying room (the shooters coming off the hill could be pretty wet!!) some bedrooms and up another stair were the servants’ bedrooms.

Now to the front of the lodge and into the hall. On the left was the grand dining room. It was almost “stately” with beautiful furniture and portraits of the Seafield Family all round the walls. Next was the drawing room, which was equally grand. On the right was the smoking room where the gentlemen went after their dinner to puff on their cigars.

Above all this front part were the guest bedrooms on two floors. One of the top bedrooms had a window that opened on to the roof and we, as kids, would climb out and play, unbeknown by our parents of course!!

Where the kitchen is now was the Butler’s Pantry where the crockery and silver was kept. The silver had to be polished to a very high standard. Next to the Butler’s Pantry was a little cubby-hole where all the electric meters were housed. During a thunder storm the lodge was struck by lightning and this cubby-hole went on fire. The fire was extinguished by Father who, fortunately, wasn’t electrocuted!! Whilst on the subject of storms, a huge tree outside the kitchen window was blown down during a gale. Luckily no damage was done to the lodge the tree having the decency to fall the other way!!

Before World War 2 the lodge was occupied by the gentry only for the six weeks of the shooting season. During all the rest of the year our family lived there, Mother being the housekeeper and Father the gardener. We children more or less had the run of the house. We had “pretend” classrooms, shops and even a theatre where an internal window looked over the back staircase. We did not need props for all this “make-believe”. Imagination was enough!! This arrangement, however, meant a twice-yearly removal between the cottage and the lodge, the method being several journeys by wheelbarrow. (No motorised transport for us then.) On one occasion I remember a two-pound bag of sugar falling off the barrow and spilling all over the ground. This would have been a bit of a disaster in those days of relative poverty.

Father worked from dawn till dusk producing vegetables, flowers and fruit for the “big house” and keeping rabbits from the vegetables and blackbirds from the fruit was always a problem. He kept the hedge at the front at a height of about 6 ft. Sadly, in my opinion, this hedge has been neglected and been allowed to grow into tall trees blocking out the spectacular view. The driveway, tennis court, grounds and lawn all had to be spick and span for the start of shooting season.

Mother would set about making cupboards full of raspberry, strawberry and rhubarb jam for the “big house”. For weeks before the shooting the “big house” itself had to be ready. This meant going round opening all the windows to make sure the house was properly aired. They all had to be closed again at night of course. We helped with these chores, along with picking fruit and watering the vegetables in the dry weather. Another of Mother’s chores during the season was to launder the lingerie of the ladies of the house. I remember being fascinated by the sheer beauty and finery of it!!

Some of the guest names that spring to mind are Drake, Lamenby, Abel-Smith and Gemmell and on the subject of names, Tulchan Lodge at Advie was where King Edward V11 came to shoot. Father, as a young man, was there at the grouse-beating.

Mother was a very good artist and painted a beautiful picture of the lodge from the garden. It hangs in our sister-in-law’s house in Grantown. She also painted the cottage and this hangs in my house in Inverness. Unfortunately, with a husband, three children and the lodge to look after, Mother did not have much time for painting. She was also an avid reader.
(Next instalment is “The Winters”)

NEW RECRUITS

	Career Intentions
John McCook, Inchtomach, Nethy Bridge PH25 3EB	sport-related career
Gemma Gordon, Roinn, Church Drive, Boat of Garten PH24 3BZ	working with children
Yasmin Caroline Morag Harrower, St Michaels, Station Road, Carr-Bridge PH23 3AN	teaching
Rory James Armour, Dunvegan House, Heathfield Road, Grantown PH26 3HX	a gap year, working at the leisure centre, travelling, then uni – sports/business studies course
Jane K McDowall, Woodburn Cottage, South Street, Grantown PH26 3HZ	

OBITUARY (with apologies for any omissions)

Sympathetic mention to the following F.P.'s:

Janet Flannery (Laing) on the death of her husband Jim

The McIntyre family on the death of Donald (see contribution)

The Gordon family on the death of her mother Cissie Gordon

Patricia A Ross on the death of her husband.

The Templeton family on the death of their sister Mrs Jan Mitchell

Sadly have also been informed of the following deaths of Former Pupils:

David Ross, formerly of the Ben Mhor Hotel

Hugh C Grant, latterly of Forfar

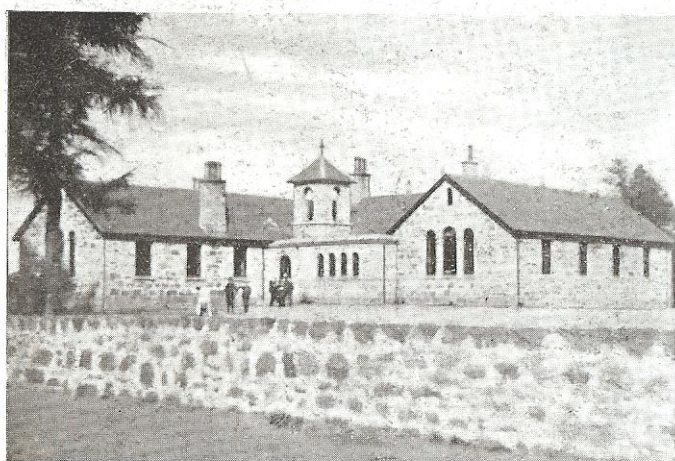
Informed by her sister, Mrs Jessie Simpson, that Margaret Agnes Ross, formerly of Broomhill Station died at Clarence Court, Broomhill, Glasgow in her 82nd year breaking a long connection with the small community that was Broomhill and its busy little station. Margaret was born in the Ian Charles Hospital. Living, as the family did, at the station, she often said that she could read railway timetables before she went to school at Dulnain Bridge (under the tutelage of Miss Carr and Mr McKinnon, followed by five years at Grantown Grammar School). On the retiral of her father from service as stationmaster, Margaret lived in Glasgow, training as a teacher of primary school pupils. She worked for 40 years in city schools. She died in October after a time of ill health.

Mrs Connie Shaw (Gordon), formerly of Stonefield Cottage (see contribution)

Donald McIntyre was Dux of Grantown Grammar about 1941. He has an interesting internet page, which can be accessed from the following link: <http://www.mcintyre.me.uk/> In a school play he was leading man and Mary Tulloch leading lady. Sadly they are both away from us now.

However I do remember that there was a photograph showing most of the cast. (contributed by Ranald McIntyre)

Mrs Connie Shaw died in hospital in Turriff on 14 May 2008 after a severe stroke. For many years since the death of her husband she lived alone at Turriff surrounded by a large group of friends and was 86 years of age at her death. As her nearest relative on numerous occasions when I visited her she often spoke of her happy days at school at Grantown Grammar and of her many friends there. She always took great pride in showing me your magazine. (contributed by Hamish Porter)



The Grammar School in 1889.



STANDARD VI. PUPILS OF A FORMER YEAR.

Left to Right—W. Templeton, W. Ross, James Lawrence, James Gilbert, A. D. Cumming, John Fraser, Donald Grant, A. Calder, James Grant, Geo. Carmichael, Duncan McIntosh, Margaret Dunbar, Carrie Forbes, Dollie Grant, Annie Munro, Tina Cumming, Barbara Mackay, Jessie Grant, Chrissie Dunbar, W. Brownie, A. Cruickshank, James Macdonald. [Jeannie Stuart,