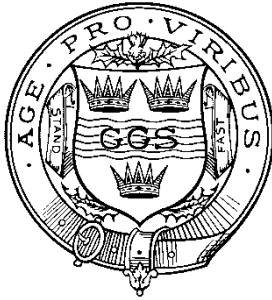


Grantown Grammar School Former Pupils' and Old Guard Clubs Magazine 2013



At the launch of the digital archive of the Grammar School Magazine on 23 April 2013 in Grantown Grammar School Hall. Pictured reading some of the original magazines are L to R: Caitlin Paton, former pupil Mrs Liza Shoesmith, Kirsty Laing and Hannah Druce.

Photo by former pupil, © Stewart Grant/The Studio in the Square

Here we are again and still managing to keep the Magazine going. Please keep sending your news however small to enable us to survive. The Biennial Dinner was not so well attended as normal due to various circumstances but very enjoyable catching up with FPs and after dinner, Holly Wright, a former pupil, gave a very interesting talk. Best wishes to all FPs for 2014 and as ever thank you for your donations.

Margaret Masson

COMMITTEE

President – Irene Carson

Honorary President – Mr Bill Templeton

Chairman – Mr Sandy McCook

Secretary – Mrs Margaret Masson

Treasurer – Mrs Daphne Ritchie

Mr Walter Dempster, Mrs Shirley Findlay, Mrs Janet Flannery, Mrs Betty Grant, Mr Stewart Grant, Mr Ian Masson and Mrs Seonaid Vickerman

Chairman's Report

Dear member,

As many of you will have noticed in recent years the numbers attending our bi-annual dinner have reduced greatly. It's not long since we had over seventy attending the dinner but this year our numbers were below thirty. There are many reasons for this but we must stop this slide and indeed reverse it.

During this year's dinner in the spring, those attending were invited to write down in note form their thoughts on the format of the evening, meal, style, time of year etc and as a committee we have taken note of these suggestions.

As a result we are considering changing the format of the re-union and indeed the time of year. There has been nothing decided and set in stone but we are looking at having the event either later in the spring or in the early autumn as many people noted they didn't or couldn't travel during the winter months.

The venue will also change to the school with a buffet meal being served. This will give those attending more time to mix and chat. One of the reasons for this is that a lot of people were finding the costs prohibitive and also finding very little time for re-union following the meal. It will most likely still be a Saturday evening which allows for work and travel.

There is also a hope that there can be a golf tournament in some format built in to the weekend along with other events.

At the moment this is the road we are looking at going down, nothing set in stone, but we are also open to any other suggestions from members as we are determined that the reunion continues for many years to come.

In another change we are opening a current account which will allow members to pay for the magazine via electronic banking from anywhere in the world. This will be a considerable benefit to Daphne Ritchie, our treasurer.

I would appreciate your thoughts, suggestions and comments on these changes and we will build the reunion around as many of the proposals as possible.

Best wishes,

Sandy McCook,

Chairman

Accounts

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2012-13					
2012	RECEIPTS	2013	2012	PAYMENTS	2013
£1,687.16	Balance - Deposit Account	£1,503.91	£500.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£400.00
£906.11	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£907.02	£236.61	Postages (magazines and info slip mailing)	£197.50
£0.00	Interest - Deposit Account	£0.00	£83.65	Photocopying	£70.68
£0.91	Interest - Flexible Savings Account	£0.91	£9.99	Envelopes and labels	£7.50
£116.00	Magazine Orders	£158.00	£16.00	Paper	£12.50
£127.00	Magazine Sales (including Grantown News)	£172.00	£0.00	Dinner for 29 (including gratuity and non-paying guests)	£826.50
£405.00	Donations	£535.00		Advert for Dinner	£43.38
£15.00	New Recruits	£0.00			
£0.00	Tie Sales	£0.00			
£0.00	Dinner Tickets	£798.00	£1,503.91	Balance - Deposit Account	£1,674.85
£0.00	Raffle during dinner	£66.00	£907.02	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£907.93
£3,257.18		£4,140.84	£3,257.18		£4,140.84

Audit Certificate: Audited from books and vouchers presented and found to be in agreement

Signed *Alastair McKenzie* Print Name *Alastair McKenzie* Date *11th December 2013*

Minutes of General Meeting

The General Meeting of the Former Pupils' and Old Guard Clubs was held prior to the Biennial Dinner in Seafeld Lodge Hotel on 23 March 2013. Irene Carson, President, welcomed the company. She gave a short resume of the School's activities and thanked the Clubs for their continuing contribution towards prizes and the school library before calling on Sandy McCook as Chairman to conduct the business meeting. Apologies were received from Betty Grant (Templeton) and Marlene Fraser (McWilliam). The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. The financial statements were also read and approved. Due to a drop in funds it was agreed to donate £400 to school funds this year. Sandy welcomed all and thanked all former pupils for their continued support and donations. He also thanked the committee. The chairman also announced that Elizabeth Shoesmith (Stuart), a former pupil had scanned all the school magazines from 1913 and there would be a launch of the digital versions at the school. From now on they would be available online. The meeting continued with the election of office bearers and the committee was re-elected en bloc. With business completed grace was said and dinner served. After dinner Sandy then introduced the speaker, Holly Wright, a former pupil, who gave a very interesting and informative talk on working for Diagio, in Dailuaine Distillery at Carron, Aberlour, after which the raffle was drawn.

A Century of School Magazines Available Online

On Tuesday afternoon, during a senior assembly, the launch of a new online resource took place. Fifty-seven publications of Grantown Grammar School magazines from 1913 to 1984 plus 29 editions of Former Pupils' magazines from 1985 to 2012 are now accessible through a link on the school website – www.ggschool.com. The school is indebted to Mrs Liza Shoesmith, a former pupil, who spent two winters scanning in several thousand pages of text and pictures. There is a wealth of historical information about the school and local history in the magazines. These documents are stored as big files to enable the viewer to enlarge the size of type, therefore downloading a magazine may take a few minutes. Mrs Shoesmith, along with several members of the Former Pupils' Club and the Chair and Vice-chair of the Parent Association, were present at the launch, after which they were joined by the School and House Captains for cream scones and tea.

Grantown Grammar School

Glow | e1 | Contact us

Information for Parents

Information for Pupils

About us

Tuesday Afternoon Timetables

Our Latest News

Girls' Football

Our football team, who played against Buckie High in the second round of the Scottish Cup on Friday.

December 2013

UCAS
CFE
Eden Court

Evolve
Blackboard
Parent Council

SQA
Scholar
School Magazines

Grantown Grammar School
Cromdale Road
Grantown on Spey
PH08 3PL
Tel: 01479 872640 Email: info@ggschool.com

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From the past...

SCHOOL PLAY 1941 – sent in by Ranauld McIntyre

The subject of the play was something connected with Customs and Excise, but the actual title is forgotten.

My brother Donald (centre without a jacket), and Mary Tulloch (in light coloured coat and facing Donald), had the lead male and female rolls. Sadly neither is still with us...

SIGNATURES ON PHOTO

Upper Line

Marie Wright (Passenger)

Herbert J Wright

Marjorie McIntosh

Ian McIntosh

Centre Right

D D Reid

Mary Tulloch (Laura)

Bottom Line

Marion A F Mortimer (Susan)

H F Cumming (Customs Officer)

Marion Grant (Eliza)

Centre Left

Ann McMillan

Alastair Jack



LORNA M BANKS (STEPHEN) (1947 – 1959)

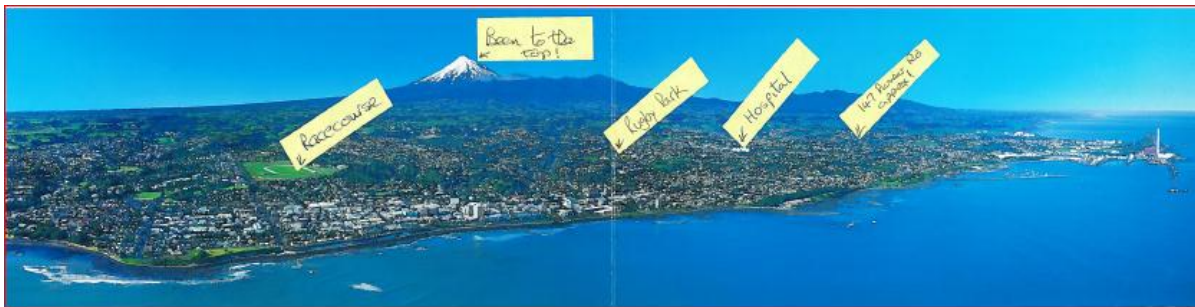
Have been unwell but getting over it now. Thanks to everyone who keeps it all going for all FPs.

MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM) (1943 – 1953)

Look forward to receiving the Former Pupils' Magazine each year and enjoy all the reading. I have another great grandchild this year born 19th May, a boy called Keirin – that will be number 10 but still get all the names mixed up. Had a photo shoot on my 75th birthday with all the kids, quite a big family. Did not manage up to Grantown this year again as I lost a few friends (getting on a bit). Time just flies. Thanks to the committee for their good work.

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

Our son and daughter-in-law and two grandsons are back in New Zealand and living in New Plymouth. We celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in August 2013.



ROSEMARY M CHARLISH (MASSON)

Had a wonderful Christmas and New Year in Vietnam with daughter, Kayleigh. Also had a lovely holiday in Australia in April.

JOHN COUTTS (1949 – 1955)

Shortly after leaving school I joined the RAF for 3 years. After demob, I married in this area and then spent 6 years with the Ministry of Defence in Harrogate. My next job took me into Banking for the rest of my working life. That in brief, covers my less than exciting career. Since retirement, life revolves mainly round home and garden, and the dogs. We also enjoy cruising, and have seen various parts of the world in that way, albeit not in any depth. Please remember me to any of my old class members, and if passing over the Dava Moor, which I still miss from time to time, think of me then.

WILMA COWAN (IRVING) (1942 – 1954)

The highlight of last year was the birth of our first great grandchild, a little boy named Alfie. We don't see him often enough as they live down in Newark, but thanks to the wonders of Facebook, we can follow his progress, as we can with our other grandchildren, scattered far and wide. Never thought I would ever link up to such a thing as Facebook, but I suppose we have to move with the times.

WALTER DEMPSTER

Like many of you I can hardly believe nearly a year has gone by since I last put pen to paper for the magazine. It is easy to say that nothing much has happened but we seem to lead extremely busy lives.

We spent a belated Ruby Wedding holiday in York at the end of February and were so taken with that city that we are determined to go back sometime soon. Since younger son Gary is well

settled in Ayr we spent a few days there in June and enjoyed touring the Burns Country and the Charity Shops of which there are many. As usual I was looking for books. His Scottish Golf Museum website is still attracting viewers from all over the world. In September we paid our annual visit to Orkney - wonderful islands and lovely people, Anne went on her usual holiday with colleagues she started training with over fifty years ago. This time they were in Prague, Budapest and Vienna while Sam (our black Lab) and I enjoyed the time on our own. Walter and family are still in Larbert. Every week he travels down to Cumbria, and in the New Year he and wife Sharon are going round the world to celebrate their fiftieth birthdays and their Silver Wedding. Daughter Siobhan is now finished with College in Stirling having received her Diploma and her brother Stuart leaves school next summer. The poor lad is Type One diabetic and has to inject himself four times daily. Last November I was diagnosed as Type Two diabetic and as a result I have shed over three stones – not exactly anorexic, but I feel so much better. Like so many of our age-group we had to adjust to changes in diet but it really is healthy eating, and after all it is something we can live with.

Anne tore ligaments in her knee at her birthday party last year after somebody asked her to demonstrate The Slosh. After all sorts of treatment over the last twelve months she saw a consultant in Raigmore and finally a steroid injection into the ligament has helped. The problem certainly curtailed some of her activities. Enough of our aches and pains.

We enjoy the Local History Group, the U3A, the Grantown Society and the Laggan Heritage and Anne spends a great deal of time as Chairperson of the Sunshine Club in Rothiemurchus. We still have weekly lunches with Angus Mackintosh in Aviemore and I was delighted to hear from Gilbert MacKay. It turned out our career paths had not been too far apart in Aberdeenshire. I gather Margaret has heard from John Coutts, and this brought back happy memories of cycling from Aviemore down to Dava to see John and Billy Lamont at weekends. The roads were a little quieter then. I have often wondered what became of these two.

We enjoyed the Dinner earlier in the year. It's always fine to catch up with old schoolmates and hear of others, but sad to learn of those who are no longer with us. The School website with all the old magazines is great to browse through. I still treasure my pile of hard copies, especially the ones when I was in the School. Of course it is the old school we went to, and possibly the next get-together might include a conducted tour of that building which so many remember with affection.

Best wishes to everyone, especially Daphne and Margaret for their hard work in connection with the Club and the magazine.

GEORGE DIXON

My first orange-bound copy of the FP magazine is dated 1945 and I greatly hope the Magazine continues and will continue.

SHIRLEY A FINDLAY (MASSON)

Now have two grandsons to keep me busy. Now double the trouble (but twice the fun). Youngest daughter will be 21 in December (bad timing so near Christmas).

MARLENE FRASER (McWILLIAM)

So sorry to have missed the Biennial Dinner due to family illness. Best wishes to all.

ROBIN FRASER (1951 – 1957)

Another year passes. Spent an enjoyable holiday this year in "the Boat". What changes over the years, totally different from the time I was a wee loonie in short trousers. Met some folk from my schooldays, so it was great to remember times gone by – stories, people who are no longer with us, things we got up to as youngsters.

The Parkinson “pills” are doing their job so far, so apart from having less energy, life goes on as normal. Regards to everyone and have a great 2014 – will we be an independent country or not by this time next year!!!

ALLAN GRANT 1956 – 1968

Still teaching until Christmas and then taking next year off. Planning to visit Greece, Scotland and Spain from May next year. Selling house in Sydney and moving up to Long Jetty, central coast of NSW about an hour and a half out of Sydney, a beach/lake suburb with a nice lifestyle. I enjoy fishing on the lake and am back into horse riding again. Diane is retired and looking forward to moving although we spend most weekends and holidays there already. Still see David Scott (Nethy) often and Drew and his sister Maureen are arriving in Sydney for a holiday in October so will catch up with them. Had an e-mail from Gillian Henderson. Perth, Australia who was also writing her magazine note at the time. Once again thanks to everyone who works tirelessly to keep the magazine going. It is much appreciated from afar.

GRAHAM GRANT

I suddenly realised we are in September and I haven't thought about returning my slip. My immediate excuse was sloth and prevarication but I've used that one before. No excuses this year. My family in Invergordon have had an exceptionally busy year and it's only the darker evenings and the softer hues of autumn that make me realise that we are rapidly approaching the autumnal equinox and the deadline for the magazine is fast approaching. I promised myself last year that I would make a real effort to contribute to the magazine on a regular basis as it's only right and proper that former pupils mirror the effort that Margaret Masson and the team make on behalf of all us FPs.

Son Chris is 21 and working for BT Manpower helping BT Businesses with the technical aspects of Broadband. However those who know him reckon he could sell Broadband to people with no Internet!

Daughter Margaret is 18 and has just started a BA in Business Management with UHI. Despite unconditional offers in the Central belt she decided that the Highlands were where she wanted to begin her studies. As an aside she is also the youngest qualified Spin instructor working with Highlife Highlands and holds classes in TRACC (Tain) for the absolute fanatics!

Siobhan's father passed away in Dunfermline this summer after a very full, active and productive life; a life in which he became a celebrity in the Irish sport of “Road Bowls”. The many associated trips up and down the A9 certainly focus the mind on some of the issues highlighted in the press with regards to some of the Scottish Government's “solutions” on the most dangerous road in the UK. Average speed cameras indeed...

Mum remains an important cog in the wheel that gives the social life of so many of the older, vulnerable (but no less important) members of the Grantown and district community some real value. She complains that she is too old to be arranging the trips and meals that so many of her friends and colleagues regard as such an important part of their lives. We know better!!

Brother Mike's business thrives through his hard work and efforts – surely there is an example to be learned and taught in a world that puts value on academia and devalues vocation. Sister Judy has adapted well to the Doric life. Her family are truly multinational and eclectic in their chosen lives.

I'm truly grateful for the life that this Grantown lad has led so far. I firmly believe that you make your own luck but there are some things that fate has laid out for you. I was promoted to Deputy Harbourmaster this year – a position which holds its own challenges. However, I'll never forget Joe Hendry's Higher Geography classes – Invergordon's Enterprise Zone was one of the subjects – life has a funny way of closing the circle.

I'll repeat my invitation of last year to anyone from Grantown who wishes to have a closer look at some of the more interesting subsea ships, cruise liners or oil rigs, to get in touch through my e-mail address.

MRS JOHN GRANT (BETTY TEMPLETON)

Sadly I have to say that our eldest sister Margaret Templeton (Mrs Paul Cropp) died in early June in Vancouver. Recently Margaret's eldest daughter, her husband and family came over from Vancouver to Grantown and met in with several family members. We reminisced – remembering our home in Grantown and days in G.G.S. We all enjoyed a very happy and special family gathering. **(NB Best wishes on your 60th Wedding Anniversary)**

HARRY HARRIS

I was the school dux and Harvey Science Medal winner in 1973 and went on to get an Honours BSc in Botany from St. Andrews University. I only lived in Grantown (Mossie Road and Cairngorm Avenue) for 4 years, so there may not be many left who remember me (my sister Sheila was also dux) and I have lived in Canada for over 33 years. I have worked as manager for the Alonsa Conservation District for almost 24 years now and am scheduled for retirement next year. I had a near bout with death 3 years ago when a misdiagnosed heart attack led to pericarditis resulting in open heart surgery and 2 months in hospital. I'm not as spry as I used to be but at least I'm looking at the dandelions from above! My sister Sheila, who lives in Peebles, has remarried and is now Sheila Grant. She is retired from teaching but still fills in with substitute duties. She recently celebrated her 60th birthday.

GILLIAN HENDERSON (1956 – 1962)

Thanks to all who put the magazine together and get it out, I so enjoy the news. It is a year since my Mum Dr Janet died in Grantown and we miss the connection so keep the news coming! Katie (24) living in Canada, skiing in B.C. in winter and working in summer camps in Ontario. Hamish (21) returned from Berkeley on exchange and now back at university here in Perth, Western Australia. Richard, my husband, and I are travelling with his work so getting around a lot – that's why addresses are important. I am SO grateful for all the work that you all do to keep the magazine going. I made email contact with Alan Grant in Sydney this year due to the magazine and we were in the same class at school!

JOHN IRVING (1936 – 1948)

Still battling on despite arthritis and diabetes. Drive a lot about on my mobility scooter as it takes me out of the house. My sister Wilma Cowan keeps me up to date with news about Grantown.

BILLY LAING

As I am writing this I am still with Gleaner Oils Ltd but hope to be retired by the time this magazine has been printed and distributed.

This last year has just flown by but during July I had a lovely visit from friends of Marr Illingworth's all the way from Cary near Raleigh, North Carolina (George and Cindi Miller).

Marr as many of you would know has over the years kept in regular touch via this magazine with updated news on his visits back to his old country to meet up with his family and friends.

Some background information, Marr lived in Castle Road East, his mother for many years working in the town's Registrar Office and on retiring moved back to Hopeman, where Marr and his three brothers were born. Marr worked with the Hydro Board in Grantown until he emigrated in the early fifties. Marr married a local girl Elizabeth from North Carolina. Not long after arriving in North Carolina Marr met up with George Miller's dad, also George, but known as G.1 who was a dentist but also played golf as Marr did and for over 50 plus years they were the

closest of friends. G.1 died in the spring of this year and his son and daughter-in-law wanted to make a trip to Scotland having heard so much over the years from Marr and Elizabeth about Scotland, Grantown-on-Spey and Hopeman. After some time visiting Glasgow, Edinburgh and two days at Muirfield for the British Open they came to Grantown-on-Spey staying for 3 days at the Grant Arms Hotel.

Through Marr I had arranged to meet with George and Cindi in Forres and then spent a most enjoyable time visiting Marr's old haunts, lunch and golf at Kinloss Country Golf Club, after visits to Findhorn then on to Burghead before going to Hopeman for a pre-arranged meeting with Marr and Elizabeth's very close friend Margaret McPherson who had visited and stayed with them in N.C. a number of years ago with her late husband. Margaret also had arranged for Marr's cousin Elma and her sister-in-law Ruth Ralph to meet up with us as well. I know that the Millers really enjoyed this visit and meeting up with these friends of Marr's of earlier years in Hopeman. A visit to Marr's old house and then on to Duffus Cemetery to pay their respects to Marr's parents who are buried there.

As you can imagine many photos were taken to show Marr and Elizabeth on their return. We finished our day by going to Nairn to show them the Golf Course where the Curtis Cup was played and finally a meal at a hotel before their return to Grantown. A wonderful visit and in many ways when George and Cindi met up with Marr and Elizabeth on their return to the USA the pleasure in going over their visits of Marr's early days in Hopeman and Grantown-on-Spey would have been immeasurable.

JANE LILLEY (MACAULAY) (1965 – 1971)

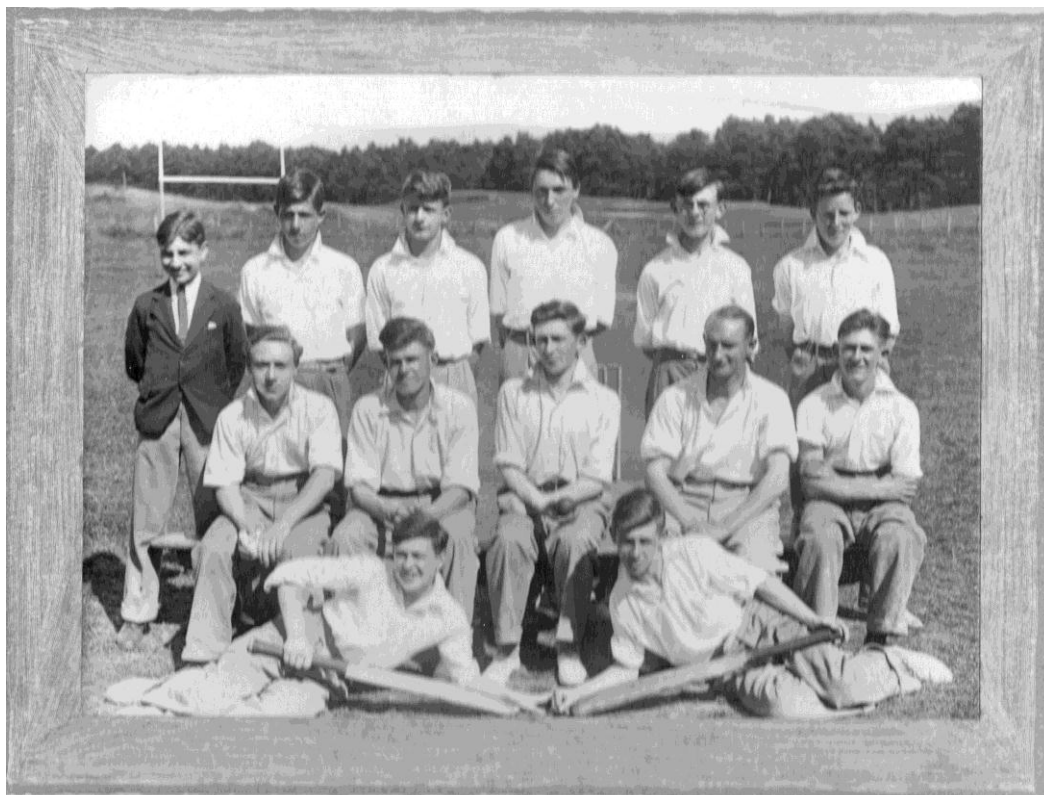
This year included a few highlights, including a significant birthday in April, for which I held a 1960s themed party. Barbecuing during a snowstorm was a novelty! May saw the publication of my book, "The Story of Nethy Bridge", which is available for £8.99 from the Bookmark, Grantown – or I can send you a signed copy if you get in touch. In June our daughter Alison graduated PhD from St Andrews University and in August John and I enjoyed a holiday in northern Europe – Denmark, Germany and Holland – staying with various relations and at a few hotels in between. We travelled on Interrail passes, which we would both highly recommend as the most stress-free way to travel.

Don't know if it's too late for the school magazine, but I have just noticed the death, in the P&J, of Douglas Matheson, our old Maths teacher. He had retired to his home town of Cromarty many years ago. Up until last year, I received a Christmas card from him every year, with a long letter - his wife Jess (who was a primary teacher in Grantown) used to write the letters but he took over when her eyesight started to fail. She died a few years ago.

The following is an extract from Jane's book, published in the September edition of The Knock magazine, a quality advertiser/general interest magazine distributed in the North East of Scotland.



Here are some very old pictures of a cricket team and a rugby team at Grantown Grammar in the early 1930s. The rugby team includes brothers, John and Bill Macaulay, Nethy Bridge, standing second and third from right. The cricket team includes Pat McLean and Bill Macaulay, Nethy Bridge, standing third and fourth from left. I just thought it was interesting that both these sports were played at the school. All the best, Jane Lilley



SIMON MACAULAY

Continuing to work (on a voluntary basis) in the promotion of additional language teaching in schools (Primary and Secondary). Following the publication of the 1+ 2 Languages Report last year work mostly with University of Aberdeen and Scotland Child Education Network (SCEN).

JAMES MacDONALD (1943 – 1945)

I have left writing to the last minute in the hope that something exciting would happen. Unfortunately, early in the year my wife had a silly fall and has suffered concussion for several months thus preventing our annual cruise. However I have carried on as projectionist for the U3A showing musicals and talks on Composers over music. Two weeks ago our grandson was married which gave the family great joy. Then last Saturday the Tour of Britain Cycle Race passed the end of our road and through the village. No parking from 11 am to 4.30 pm. They went through at 1.15 pm and took all of a minute. Ever since the Olympic Games this part of Surrey has suffered with cyclists. Hundreds over weekend and as we are not blessed with wide roads it is very frustrating for motorists. I have had much enjoyment looking at school magazines on the internet. It brought back many happy memories of the years I spent at G.G.S.

JOHN McINNES (1961 – 1966)

I imagine you have my simple story on file already but if you're looking for a "filler" article I could draft a mini-blog sometime (yes please!). Here in the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh our recently bruised and battered Catholic faithful have a new Archbishop who seems to chat Pope Francis our sense of Church and Ministry ie we are here to bring the love and meaning of God to the world rather than focusing on instructions of management. Bodes well!

IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) (1948 – 1961)

Checking the calendar this morning I realised it was time to send a contribution to this year's magazine. A relatively quiet year in the McIntosh household due in no small measure to our Westie Corrie, who is still to the fore requiring the same TLC he did last year. This has confined us to barracks somewhat but that is the price to pay for being a pet owner and we do not mind as he has given us so much pleasure over the years. On saying that, we did visit Canada last September, spending a week on Vancouver Island and a week in Toronto with friends who live in the area. In May of this year we travelled to St David's in South Wales and had a great stay there, despite the weather and £50 parking fine!! We also had a new kitchen installed in March during the wonderful weather we enjoyed then – thank goodness is all I can say, as the back door had to be removed to allow the workmen to take the units in and out, but never again. I was exhausted by the end of it all! In spite of my attempts (still on-going) to get rid of one item of clutter per day, I seem to have achieved very little success, with the kitchen anyway!! At present we are looking forward to a three week holiday in the States – Arizona and New Mexico – during September/October. We may see a little of the sun which has been so scarce in Scotland so far in 2012. Wishing those who put our magazine together all the very best now and in the future – you do a sterling job and long may you continue to do so.

RANALD McINTYRE (1939 – 1943)

Now some 70 years since I left school, but pleased to say the body is still working but the brain is slowing down. Mind you. I'm not sure it was all that fast when I was at school! Still active in all sorts of local issues in the Falkirk area. Busy with the world of computers, and the wealth of good information available. Sparky, my 14 year old dog, still wants walks in the park, which is a good thing for both of us. Regards to all who help producing the magazine, and everyone connected with the Grantown-on-Spey area.

GORDON MacGREGOR (1938 – 1951)

Both myself and Marjory are still enjoying retirement. All the family are working hard as a chef, a computer expert, a photographer, a contractor and four are teachers. I was a founder member of the “Scottish Fiddle Orchestra” and played for 32 years but now retired from it. For my work as Administrator for 15 years serving on the board I received a gift of a tune called “Gordon MacGregor Esq of Blairgowrie”. We both enjoy keeping up with the news of Grantown.

MRS IRIS McINTOSH (FORBES) (1948 – 1961)

Do hope you are having a good response to your plea for contributions to the magazine this year. It does make for more interesting reading if the members send in even just a few lines about themselves. Life in the McIntosh household has been rather subdued in 2013 as we had to “part company” with our Westie, Corrie, at the beginning of December 2012. We knew it was inevitable that we were going to lose him but it certainly knocked us for six. The weather during the first part of the year was another contributing factor for us being rather housebound but we did venture to Wales for a week in May and combined that with a visit to Fiona and family. We had our usual week at Dalfaber in August, this time taking out two granddaughters aged 8 and 5 with us. Never having been at the Timeshare before with children this was a new ball game but we coped (well Harry just made it!!) We are off to South Africa on 23rd September and hope it will be the wonderful experience, our friends who have been, tell us it is. Looking forward to receiving my copy of the magazine and having a trip down Memory Lane!

RACHEL MACKAY (McROBERT) (1957 – 1969)

Retired and living happily in Strathnaver with my husband. We are kept busy in the garden and doing B&B when we don't have a house full of friends or family. My spare time is spent planning holidays and then dragging my poor husband on them.

KEITH McKERRON (1937 – 1940)

Joined the 90 plus club. Not a lot of activity but no shortage of memories!

ALAN McTAGGART

My brother Donald and I met up in February this year when he took a trip to New Zealand and Australia. A time to catch up and reminisce on life's twists and turns and remember, as the two remaining brothers out of seven, on events we all shared over time. Both Don and I are officially retired from work although busier than ever in our lives. Family gatherings become more important and so we do the travelling to keep all the connections connected. Visiting the latest GC additions, twin boy and girl to Steven and Cassie, is always a joy as are the other 10 aged anywhere up to 23. All the tertiary aged are at Uni and one more to join the list next year. G.G.S. must have had some influence!!

The Biloela Pipe Band is 6 strong with 4 from one local family!! They just spent the summer in Scotland playing, learning and improving their technique. Loved it by all accounts but they are missing the sun ... did it shine at all?

IAN D MASSON

A year now past in our new house. With the great weather we have had this summer all our spare time was spent in the garden. We now also have ducks and hens! Elise and Natalie enjoy helping out as well as collecting the eggs and feeding them. Had a lovely holiday in Majorca with friends in October. Work has been very busy – everyone needing their tyres swapped for winter. Girls and I looking forward to some ski-ing – if the girls find time between Brownies, Guides, swimming and dancing. I'm back helping Pipe Band with “Gigs” and also doing some drumming tuition.

MARGARET J MASSON (STUART)

Lovely holiday in Australia with daughter Rosemary to see Grandson Kyle, his wife Cat and my cutest twin great grand daughters. Not a restful holiday with little two and a half year olds but such fun. All places we visited catered for youngsters with various safe play areas even little museums specially for children with items to touch and magnifying glasses to look at different insects etc to encourage their interest. Kayleigh also joined us for a week which was lovely. Have a new great grandson, Calvin, to join his big brother Bradley.

WILLIAM A MITCHELL (BILL)

The highlight of the year so far was a National Trust cruise around some of the Western Isles. I achieved one of my lifetime ambitions landing on the remote islands of St Kilda. As I write this report, I am awaiting the imminent arrival of my second great grandchild which will certainly be another highlight.

MRS BRIAN MURRAY (ANN STEWART) (1959 – 1965)

Another busy year – our Ruby Wedding Anniversary in July – 40 long years! We'd a nice meal out with Carol Beckett (Stuart) in attendance. We had a nice few days in August in Orkney with Kate Brown (Miller) and her hubbie. Brother, James, has another year in Perth, Australia, then back to Dalkeith and possible retirement.

LINDSEY NAPIER (STEPHEN) (1949 – 1962)

I retired this year from the University of Sydney. In my retirement speech I highlighted the good fortune of my earliest years of education – at Grantown Grammar School. I will be forever thankful for the gift of “free” or rather universally entitled – education and the unforgettable teachers and teaching at that time (the leather belt notwithstanding!!) Thank you for keeping the magazine alive.

ERNIE & AMELIA OAKES (EDWARDS) (1939 – 1949) (1952 – 1958)

2013 has been a busy and very eventful year. In June we moved to Grantown after twenty-eight years at Balmenach – with all that's involved in down-sizing! The new garden is an enjoyable challenge and the proximity to the Golf Course is a bonus! In August we celebrated our Golden Wedding with family and friends at the Golf Club. Our daughter and son-in-law were able to join us from New Zealand which was lovely and thankfully the weather was very good and they didn't miss the pleasant New Zealand temperatures at all. Looking forward to living in the town and being able to walk for papers and shopping.

PATRICIA ANN POULTON (LAWRENCE) (1947 – 1956)

Highlights 2012 – 2013 – Moved house in November 2012, quite a challenge in our seventies, but enjoying being nearer daughter Fiona and grand daughter Isla, now ready to sit 11+. Son Andrew now living in Germany (Aachen) with family Emma (17), Charlotte (13). Emma waiting for GCSE results. Andrew 50 in September – can that be possible? Visited sister, Beth McClelland, in Gourock. Caught up with all the news. Still managing to go abroad as well – Lanzarote and Malta this year, and of course, Germany. Keeping active – school runs and homework with Isla. Enjoying life with “Ladies who Lunch”. Have a very patient and understanding husband! Theatre trips and days out. No chance to get bored.

MRS MONA RAE (GRANT) (1951 – 1964)

December 2012 brought the birth of my beautiful new grand daughter, Rowan. She and her older sister Amber, keep me busy when I go back to Ballintua, which I do a lot. I also help with my

grandson, Alastair, when he visits the farm with his dad and in Inverness. While baby-sitting takes up a lot of my time I still manage to fit in a few concerts, mostly in Glasgow but also locally. I managed this year to spend a couple of days with Davis Robertson and I really enjoyed catching up with her. Note to self to make a greater effort to keep in touch with old friends. I do keep in regular touch with Elizabeth Cunningham (Power) and Barbara Beattie (Fleming) both in Canada and occasionally with Catherine Parrott (Douglas). We had a cousins' reunion in Edinburgh earlier this year which was a most enjoyable weekend. In October I will go on holiday to Australia. This will be my first holiday for quite a few years so I am really looking forward to it. I am hoping to look up Margaret Anne Grant when I am out there. We will spend time in Sydney and Brisbane and have a stop-over in Abu Dhabi on the way back when we will visit a friend who lives there. By the time I get back it will be time for Christmas shopping and another family Christmas. Time just flies by when you are busy.

WILLIAM T REID (1952 – 1962)

Hello there from Edinburgh. It is a little while since my last communication but there have been some memorable events in the interim. I have now retired fully from business this year and am beginning to enjoy retirement and the relative freedom that comes with that status. I am now trying to reduce my handicap but not having much success. I'm also seen regularly on the tennis courts pretending I can still cover the court as quickly as before. It is nice to be able to do things you could never quite get to when you wanted to when you worked. Happily my wife Catriona has also retired so we enjoy our common interests without having to check a work schedule. Our oldest and youngest sons are now married since I last reported. The former works in the Wirral as a Chemical Engineer and lives in Cheshire while the latter is an ecologist with Scottish Hydro Electric in Inverness. Their brother George has been increasing his family and his wife Eve has given him our second grand-daughter, Phoebe, (now 18 months) and our third grandson, Fergus (just 4 weeks). George and family live close by in Loanhead so we see a lot of them. Our daughter Kathryn and her three children with her husband Bruce are now registered Australian citizens with dual nationality. We miss seeing her and the children growing up but her twin boys are now dreaded teenagers having reached their 13th birthday this past week and their little sister is now 10. How quickly they grow up! Melbourne is a long way away but we hope to make the trip next year sometime. My sister Elizabeth who will be remembered by many folk in Grantown as one of the local District Nurses is still in Forres and her two girls Claire and Jill make the journey from Glasgow and Dundee regularly to keep an eye on their parents. My brother Andrew now lives in Cheltenham with his wife to be nearer to his daughter and family. His son and family live in London. I think it was not a hard decision to make in his move to Cheltenham - who would want to live in London these days! With a sister in Forres and a son in Inverness we are not infrequently passing through Grantown and it is pleasant to indulge in a bit of nostalgia strolling around the town and remembering many happy times in our growing up years.

SUSAN RILEY (GRANT)

Well, as any grandparent knows, I joined the most "amazing club" and became a "granny". Mathew and Harriet had a beautiful daughter, Maisie Nicole, on 25th March this year. Daniel still enjoying his job with the Royal Mail and I am still up at Revack Restaurant. A busy and exciting year all round.

DAPHNE RITCHIE (DUNCAN)

Last minute as usual... Committee meeting on Monday night (this is Friday afternoon) to discuss magazine and accounts. Accounts not started yet, addresses and email addresses not updated yet and pictures and interesting snippets have still to be added to the magazine. Help!

A busy weekend... And my National 4 and National 5 Business class assessments are being uplifted for external verification by the SQA in January. Mmmm, I'll not mention Curriculum for Excellence. This year started off with me having Lyme disease, but I didn't get around to visiting the Doc about my rash and tiredness and painful joints until April and it wasn't diagnosed until June! So July saw me taking lovely antibiotics which affected the melanin production in the skin, so I couldn't be out in the sun without burning! And this summer – the best summer weather for years – I was in the shade or inside for most of it! Holidays this year were Ferring near Worthing at Easter time, which was cold; Mull and Angus in August, which was wet, but Stephen and I did manage to sit out on deck chairs on a deserted beach in Monifieth in watery sunshine; Germany (near the Formula 1 race track – Nürburgring) in October, which was really exciting. Other excitement this year (in the walking boots) were Grantown to Forres, on the Dava Way, through the night in pouring rain (in aid of the upkeep of the Dava Way) and up Ben Nevis in July (it was as busy as Piccadilly Circus) with brother, Eddie, and brother-in-law, Hugh, and several of his relations. Family news – we were at a lovely wedding for niece Iona, who was married in October in King's College and Elphinstone Hall in Aberdeen, and danced my fastest Strip the Willow ever to a Celtic band, The Picts. Now I've run out of time – staff Christmas party in the Garth tonight, so must go and find some 'glad rags' to wear. I will have to take the FP folder home for the weekend. (Magazine could be going out in January for the first time!)

DAVIS ROBERTSON (THOMSON) (1951 – 1964) Still enjoying retirement – if that's what you call it!! Bowls and grandchildren keep me fully occupied. Have just had my aunt Wilma McDonald (nee Watt) with me for a three week holiday. We certainly did a lot of reminiscing! We spent an overnight in Grantown and met Seonaid Green and Seonaid Vickerman at Church. It was lovely to have a chat with them after the service – and more reminiscing. Thanks for all the efforts in producing the magazine every year.

ALEX ROSS (1950 – 1960)

Just received a reminder to send something in for the magazine. Good to see you, Margaret, in the Square in the summer. I also met a couple of my old classmates I hadn't seen for years. The weather was very kind to us and our three daughters all managed to spend time in our house in Nethy over the summer, all enjoying good weather. Just about to leave on Sunday for another week in Scotland (mid September), but I doubt we will enjoy the same weather. Retirement is still good and we can come and go as we please.

PATRICIA HELEN ROSS (MacDONALD)

Seven wonders of the world:-

1. To see
2. To hear
3. To touch
4. To taste
5. To feel
6. To laugh
7. To love

If money is the root of all evil why do Churches beg for it?

WALTER ROSS (1946 – 1958)

We have not managed to get up to Grantown this year as we have down-sized, having lived at our previous address for 33 years – it was quite an undertaking. The new house required a lot of work. We have, however, managed to visit Cordoba and Ukraine, including the Crimea this year.

Very interesting part of the world with wonderful scenery. It makes you wonder what the Army thought they were doing there during the Crimean War.

NICOLA SHAW (BANS) (1974 – 1980)

Referee wheelchair basketball. Paralympic referee 2012. Basketball tutor for officiating. Working in Local Government in Crawley.

CARL & LAURA STEWART (FINDLAY)

Now have two little boys. Calvin joined Bradley in March this year. Calvin is now on the move and although Bradley is very good with his little brother, he is very protective with his car collection, so maybe some interesting times ahead. Bradley also thinks Grandad is “HIS” own personal playmate.

BARBARA STOREY (SMITH)

I am responding, in fact very late – and my dearly missed Dad would be telling me off and giving me some very difficult French verbs to conjugate or some obscure German to translate. And now I am at that awkward point where I am about to visit Grantown and dreading meeting Daphne Ritchie or Margaret Masson in the High Street and having to hang my head in shame. I just have to get on and put pen to paper! Highlights this year have included a day flying birds of prey, several enjoyable theatre trips and family get-togethers, a weekend in Clacton (advice – don’t bother), my second hen do, a fantastic Scottish wedding (no dance injuries sustained), a satisfying clear out of our loft and subsequent lucrative car boot sale – and last but not least, an amazing road trip to northern California, taking in San Francisco, Yosemite, Gold Rush Valley, Sierra Nevada and Mendocino coast (advice – go now – fantastic).

NEIL STUART

I am just bashing on with life. Kept busy with one dog, 3 grandchildren and playing bowls. Also play percussion in 2 bands – Edinburgh Concert Band mainly (check the web site). My wife and I both invigilate school exams and we do try to get away in the caravan, if weather permits. Enjoyed Oban, Luss, Skye, Killin and Yellowcraig and Dirleton several times this year. Maybe Grantown next year?

THOMAS B STUART (1937 – 1950)

Trying, with limited success, to hold back the advancing effects of old age. Will probably need a new hip next year. However, still planning to go to Australia for Christmas and New Year. My youngest son lives quite near Sydney. Last year on our visit, we travelled the Great Ocean Road and spent a week touring Tasmania. Beats the cold and frosts of the British winter.

MAREE THOMPSON

From October 2013, we will be living just outside Frankfurt in Germany. Bis bald und auf wiedersehen!

SHERIE WALKER (SUTTON)

Andrew Smith (from Nethybridge) and I have been very happily together for 10 years. We “reunited” after 37 years when we were both at home for our respective mothers’ 80th birthdays. All those years ago during our last two years at Grantown Grammar School we had been special friends and always shared a seat on the Nethy bus from school, after which Andrew would walk me home and we would chat for hours at the gate..... so after all this time we had a lot to catch up on!

After 4 years in the Lake District, where I was living when Andrew arrived back from South Africa, we came to live on the beautiful Isle of Arran in 2007 and worked as managers of a hotel in Lamlash. Last year we retired from that and we now run a B&B and holiday cottage on the seafront in Lamlash (www.ivybankarran.co.uk). I had hotel-keeping in my blood, as I was brought up in Craiglynne Hotel (built by my grandmother) and then my father, Colin Sutton, became manager of Nethybridge Hotel, so I am very much at home in the catering industry. My four children, all in their 30s, have their careers in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Brighton and I am very fortunate in having 2 precious grandchildren in Clarkston, Glasgow – an easy day's visit by ferry and train from Arran.

Andrew and I are often up in Grantown and Nethy visiting our families. My brother Ewan is closely involved in the community's activities, so we get to know what is going on from him and from Andrew's sister Marjorie. We enjoyed sharing the town's twinning celebrations earlier this year. Grantown is where I was born and brought up and will always be "home" to me.

JAY WARD (1959 – 1965)

My third grandson, Andrew, arrived in February. A replacement aortic valve last year has given me a new vigour but a higher golf handicap! Brother Grant (school 1956 – 1959) rapidly approaching 70 is, like me, a bridge player but he takes it seriously. Sister Mary (school 1949 – 1953) still in Melbourne with two sons and 3 grand daughters.

SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON) (1944 – 1951)

We enjoyed the FP Reunion very much as usual, but I was a little disappointed to miss many of the faces I usually see, like Gordon and Marjory MacGregor, Sheen McIntosh and of course Rita and Bill Templeton and many others. I enjoy reading the magazine and hope it continues to thrive. The committee members certainly work hard to keep up the contact. We had a beautiful summer, which Roy and I spent mostly at home. I was in pain with an arthritic knee and after struggling for a while I had a full knee replacement on 31st July 2013. I am told the most important thing to do is the exercises! I am looking forward to being more mobile. I am glad the Bridge is not a physical game, so Roy and I can still enjoy playing at our Morpeth Clubs. Best wishes for 2014.

KAY WILSON (ROSS)

This year my beautiful little grand daughter came into the world, born 7th April called Isla Catherine Anna Wilson and weighing 6lbs12ozs. Absolutely love her to bits but still too young to be a granny!! Healthwise, it's been a bad year for me as I had a prolapsed disc in my lower back which ended with me having 5 months off work and lots of physio. Back to work full time now and enjoying being back to normal. Big 50 next year so hoping to organise a reunion for our class – anyone who reads this former pupils' magazine and was in school with me can get in touch by facebook or e-mail.

OBITUARY (with apologies for any omissions)

Sympathetic mention to the following FPs:

Betty Grant and Bill Templeton on the death of their sister Margaret (Mrs Paul Cropp)
Margery Paterson (Macaulay) and Grant Macaulay on the death of their father, Frank
Angus Gordon on the death of his wife, Nora
Mrs Sheila Drumm (McCulloch) on the death of her sister, Kathleen
Mr Sandy Dick on the death of his wife, Muriel (Morrison)

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

David A Fraser (Dulnain Bridge) latterly Newton Mearns

Mrs P.A.M. Higgins (MacPherson) – see contribution

Mrs Mary Orander (Cruickshank) – see contribution

Mrs Meta Stevens (King) – see contribution

Mrs PAM Higgins (MacPherson)

It is with much regret that I inform you that my sister Mrs P.A.M. Higgins (Patricia MacPherson) died on 4 April 2013 in Chesterfield where she lived with her husband. PAM was a great supporter of the Grantown Grammar School magazine and had recently introduced me to membership of the Former Pupils' and Old Guard Clubs. PAM was a pupil from 1949 to 1956 having been dux of the primary school, an award of which she was very proud. Our family left Grantown in 1956 to live in Comrie. PAM became a pupil at Morrison's Academy in Crieff for 2 years. We then moved to Cupar, Fife and PAM spent 4 years at Bell Baxter High School.

She then became a "bohemian" student at Edinburgh school of art, followed by teacher training in Dundee, to become qualified as a primary school teacher. She ultimately became a much loved teacher at Westfield School in Chesterfield, for more than 25 years. She was devoted to her pupils, from whom she retired in 2003. At her funeral in Chesterfield on 17 April she was honoured by her family who wore MacPherson tartan kilts and ties. The service was performed by Rev Helen I Hoe who delivered a very informed and objective summary of PAM's professional and family history. PAM leaves her husband Malcolm, son Graham, daughter Caroline and grandson Gabriel. At her funeral, I, her brother, was privileged to deliver a recitation of Robert Burns, poem "Aye Fond Kiss" in which Burns refers to a loss of a loved one. (Stewart MacPherson – PAM's brother)

Mrs Mary Grant Orander (Cruickshank)

My wife since 1945, Mary Grant Cruickshank, died here with me at our home At Lidingo, Sweden. She was 93 years old and generally very healthy. Best regards to her old school. (Sigvard Orander)

Mrs Meta K Stevens (King)

I write to advise that my mother Meta Stevens (Meta King) sadly died on 31st May 2013 at her home in Cullen.

Mum attended Grantown Grammar School between 1925 and 1936 and was awarded the Dux Medal in her final year. She certainly enjoyed her time there and spent many a long hour

regaling us with tales of her school days. Clearly she benefited from an excellent education and even at the age of 93 she often quoted French and German phrases to her carers. (Peter G Stevens)

Simon Noble

In 2011, I was home to Grantown as my mother had managed to fracture her hip. A Margaret Noble from Arbroath had visited the Museum and the Grammar School in search of an ancestor - her grandfather - who had been a teacher in the Grammar School at the beginning of the twentieth century. The school sent her to my mother's house where my sister thought it was too far back for Mum. But I had recognised the name from a photocopied first edition of the FP magazine in 1913. Simon Noble was a founding member and vice-president of the FP Club and the magazine's first editor. A simple internet search and the FP archive on the Grammar School website revealed it all.

The fifth son of a farm servant turned green keeper Simon Noble was born in the parish of Petty in 1880 to Donald Noble and a Margaret Fraser. We find him in a school photo taken in the Grammar School in 1894 when he would have been about fourteen (FP Archive). In the 1901 census he is a student living in Huntly Street Aberdeen where presumably he graduated MA in 1903 or 4. The next event in his life we find him marrying in 1909 in Glasgow to a girl from Kilmarnock, Jeannie Boyd Beattie Graham and he is already described as a master in the Grammar School. His best man is William R Stuart son of Angus Stuart described in the census as compositor and stationer and a neighbour to his parents now living in Spey Avenue.

In 1911 he turns up on the same page as my Granny and Granda Paterson at 61 High Street. He is described as a certificated teacher assistant and he has one son Donald Graham aged 1.

The next few years of family life are marred first by the death of his mother in 1913 closely followed by the death of his second son James Meikle from '*meningitis*' at 13 months old. A third son in 1914 died at 8 days in 1914 from embolism probably a congenital heart problem. A fourth Thomas Alexander Fraser was born in Cromdale in 1918.

He becomes the headmaster of Cromdale School late in 1913. His father died in 1922. During this time his younger sister Margaret marries Alexander Ledingham the Photographer and they lived in the close above the Patersons in the High Street.

In 1924 he is on the move again to Findhorn and his farewell from Cromdale is reported in the Forres Gazette and his new appointment noted. In 1926 his sudden death is reported and his death certificate reveals a possible explanation for his apparent restlessness. He has died from a bowel haemorrhage at the age of 45 consequent on a perforated duodenal ulcer. Like his four older brothers he has died from a condition that nowadays would be eminently treatable. His farewell from Cromdale gives some insight into his character.

It is speculation but I wonder if he had chronic problems as he moved to smaller schools and to the pleasant climate of Findhorn.

His wife moved with the two surviving boys to live in Nairn. There were two or three families of Nobles settled here who may have helped financially.

There is a photograph and three articles from the Forres Gazette including his obituary. He died in Yewbank Nursing Home in Inverness attended by Mr D Dickie FRCS. He was only 45.

In 1918 a fourth son was born, Thomas Alexander Fraser Noble, later to have a distinguished career knighted and known as Sir Fraser Noble latterly as vice-chancellor of Leicester University and Principal of Aberdeen University from 1976-1978.

His oldest son Donald appears as an office bearer in the 1929 Magazine and appears to be one of those who revived the club in 1929. It had stalled during the first war and probably was revived in the late 1920s when the arrival of Mr Hunter as the new headmaster stimulated increasing standards and enthusiasm in the School. Donald became a Journalist in Dundee and it was his daughter who initiated the query.

Both Simon Noble's sisters survived him. Margaret who had been a pupil teacher until she married, died in 1960 and I just remember Miss Catherine Noble (Katy) who remained unmarried and lived behind Frasers of Perth and died in 1973.

All this fascinating material was there to be found buried in material on the Internet. The records of Cromdale School can be found in the archive in Inverness and those of Findhorn in Aberdeen City Archive. Sir Fraser Noble is an illustrious son of Grantown though he credits Nairn Academy for his excellent education.

I looked for a connection to Mr Donnie Noble whom some will remember as the biology teacher in the early seventies. He moved to Forres Academy in the early seventies and died in 1993. He was probably the single most influential teacher I remember – the man who introduced me to Darwin Evolution and Genetics, shaped my career choice and view of the world.

Liza Shoesmith

Prom 2001



London Trip 2012



Some more old pictures...

This picture was published recently in the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald.



From the files (ie Room 9 cupboard)...

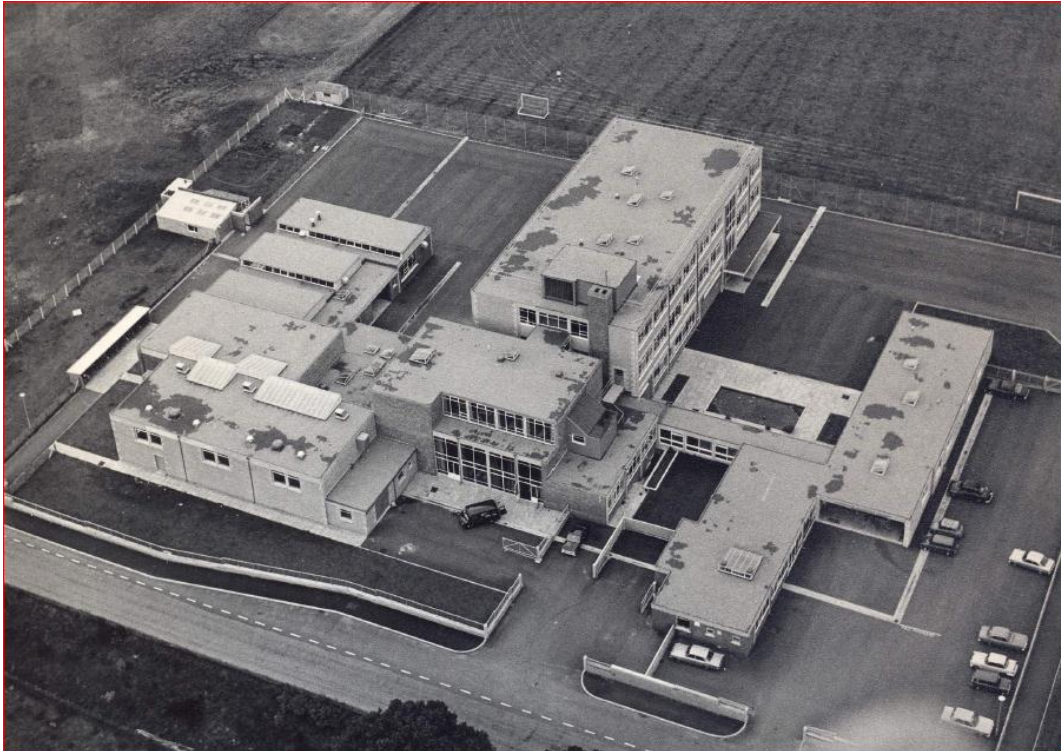


Grantown Grammar School "B" team, who won the special prize at the Scottish Schools Ski Race, pictured after being presented with a £30 BP Scholarship and medals by Mrs. Anne Forrester, wife of Mr. Ian A. Forrester, BP advertising manager, Scotland. Also in the picture is Mr. H.E. Richardson, BP retail sales manager, Scotland. The team is (left to right) Jane Riley, Fiona Ledingham, Colin Fleming, and Douglas Carse.





1968



Staff 1982



Staff 2012



The GGS Grapevine

News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School (www.grantowngrammar.hIGHLAND.sch.uk)

WELCOME to this month's news page where we hope to try to keep the whole of our learning community up-to-date with all of the exciting news and opportunities for pupils at Grantown Grammar School.

This month: Celebrating success



BREEDIN' (Above) Jacob Sellers in a ski race.
TAKING TO THE SLOPES: A bonnie picture in Montgenevre.

News bites:

■ GGS geographers have been spending lots of time in the outdoors over the last few weeks during fieldwork.

One of them has been busy in Grantown, looking across the High Street and contacting some questionnaires to find out about the town's sphere of influence.

All of the National 4/5 geography pupils have now collected fieldwork data for their projects. This has been to GGS and used at the awards in Fife. They have worked exceptionally well, producing documents to be read by geographers.

■ All 53/4 pupils were invited to a meeting this morning (Thursday) to find out more about the Pwca (Pwca of Education Award). A letter should have come home with 53/4 pupils on Monday, and an information poster point to be available on the school website under 'Information for parents'.

■ GGS pupil Jack Smith (54) took part in Future Classics tomorrow this month. The judges were very impressed with his skills and enthusiasm and he will be an excellent candidate for the award. The winner will be announced with his skills, presentation and technique.

Kids impress on French ski trip

GGS have recently returned from a very enjoyable ski holiday to Montgenevre, France, staying in the Chablais Les Vers Mages. The trip began at 5.30am on Saturday, January 4, where we had to make it to the school for the start of our journey.

For some it was a shock to the system after all the holiday longfins.

The journey was good apart from having a five-hour transfer from the airport to resort rather than the two hours due to snow, however, the pupils were still in good spirits.

Upon arrival at the hotel at 1.30pm, we checked in and went on way to our rooms for a day's rest. We were ready for skiing on the first day.

We were all up bright and early for breakfast and straight out to ski on the first morning.



SKIPPING COIN: Having a great time on the slopes.

We were very lucky that there had been two days of heavy snow prior to our arrival so the mountain was covered in a layer of fresh powder. This meant that with perfect blue skies most of the time we were in for a good week.

Throughout the week, students were a real credit to the school, always polite and

independent. Every pupil asked or inquired all the days and by the end of the week GGS was the talk of the town due to the high standard of our pupils.

In fact, instructors were fighting over us and they mentioned this is the most difficult ever covered by a school group.

The hotel was very comfortable

and the staff were very good at organising evening entertainment after a day of snow sports. These included 'buns' 'boating', ice skating and a treasure hunt, all of which became very competitive.

This competition continued when the instructors organised a giant slalom race with another

school from Wales. This was a fantastic experience for both the older and younger to demonstrate their technical skills.

On the final day the instructors took the groups on a day trip to Italy riding the milky-way. This was a fantastic experience as we were able to ride and snowboard on a range of slopes including the 2008 Olympic women's downhill run.

The week really had to come to an end. It was a great opportunity for the pupils, who all developed and improved their technique, and will remain in their memories for a long time.

A big thank you to Mr Tom Macgregor, Mrs Louise Crane and Bob Taylor for organising the trip and hopefully future trips are as enjoyable and rewarding.
Duncan Collett (55)

Diary date

■ Running until February 7, 2014 - Senior pupils

Dragons did us proud

THE SPY DRAGONS - Grantown Junior Netball team took on Fort William Juniors in their first 'friendly' match of the year recently. Despite a slow start, the Grantown girls played some excellent netball and goal shooter Heidi Burt shot spectacularly to keep the score line tight.

The Fort William girls were also good and the Dragons never really got in front of them, despite a multitude of interceptions by Heather Ashmore and Julie Cooper.

The final score 17-14 was a fitting end to a well contested game.

The girls look forward to more matches by the next few months.

Other netball news

GGS senior netball team took part in the Scottish Cup round three at the Sports Village in Aberdeen. Their opponents Robert Gordon's College were tough and despite hustling every ball, the GGS girls walked behind 19-11 at half time.

They fought well till the final whistle but the final score 39-17 was a reflection of how good the Aberdeen girls passed and shot.

Notable performances: There were some beautiful interceptions throughout the game from Heidi Burt, (GD) Tara Westbrook (WA/C), Charlotte Anderson (WA/C) and first thrower Sarah MacLeod (GS), some fantastic attack play from Cassie Stevenson (GS) and Heather Burt (GS) and steady centre court play from Heather McAnulty (GS) and Kirsty Burt (GS). Every member of the team is to be congratulated for their staying power throughout the hour-long match and the fact that they progressed one round further in the competition this year.

Music department in the community

THIS past week has seen a number of Burns' Night celebrations in Grantown and requests for pupils to perform at these events came in thick and fast.

The 56 traditional group performed for the pupils at Grantown Primary School last Wednesday as part of the school's Burns' Night Celebration and the next day Glen Robertson played in the pipers at Grant View Nursing Home.

and also played a number of tunes for the residents. The British Isles Pipe Band popped in the bagpipes for the Burns' Supper organised by Grantown Museum and later the same day the 56 traditional music group Ur Ceol (with support from Iain Colman on guitar) performed for the meal and dance at the British Legion in Grantown to help raise funds for the friends of the Charles Hospital.



TALENT: (Above) Members of Ur Ceol entertaining guests at the Burns' Supper at the Royal British Legion in Grantown. Band members are Heather Hepburn, Grace Trail, Iain Colman, Claire Robertson and Shannah Grant.

ALL SINGERS: Grace Trail, Shannah Grant and Iain Robertson performing at Grantown Primary School.

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS
Information Slip

NAME MAIDEN NAME

YEARS AT SCHOOL From to

PRESENT ADDRESS

.....

LOCAL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

INFORMATION AND NEWS (on qualifications, careers, family events, holidays, hobbies, stories, poems, jokes etc) continue overleaf if required.

Do write in to the magazine. Without all our efforts the magazine wouldn't exist. And thank you to those who regularly contribute and for all your generous donations.

MAGAZINE REQUIRED YES/NO Number required

Enclose £2.00 in payment for magazine. Cheques to be made payable to **GGs FP Club**.

MAGAZINE DONATION **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

NEW MEMBERS Add £5 for Life Membership Fee LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Please return completed form and payment by 30 September to the Secretary: Mrs Margaret Masson,
18 Macgregor Avenue, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire PH26 3ET