



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Lockdown Issue 1, April 2020

Dear fellow Whitehill FPs

We thought it would be a good idea to introduce some additional Newsletters over this lockdown period in an effort to keep people in touch and spread a little cheer. We have had a few contributions in by email which will be of interest.

From Agnes Lagden (nee Barr)

The Dennistoun Cameo booklet made interesting reading. (see www.whitehillfp.org website) A big thank you to Bill and Ron. I was particularly interested in William Allan's reference to his time at Bennet Furnishings in Fordneuk Street as my maternal grandfather worked there and it is where he met the lady who would become my grandmother.

Sometimes when walking from my home in Gateside Street (off Duke Street) to Granny's in the Gallowgate my mother would point to Fielden Street (leading to Fordneuk Street) and tell me that Granny and Granpa had worked down there. I was told that he "courted" her with a bag of preserved ginger. Not surprisingly, I too have a great liking for preserved ginger. I remember as a child wondering if my school desk had been made by the grandfather I sadly never knew.

Perhaps some of the other FP's might like to read the recollections of the actor Bill Paterson (Whitehill FP) "Tales from the Back Green" if it is still in print. These were short stories originally broadcast on BBC Radio in 2006 and turned into a book in 2008.

From Christine O'Neill

I have just read the most recent newsletter and was interested in John's information about Mr Cliff and thought I would share this with you.

I was in touch over the years with Jane Harvey (head of music in the 60s) who became Jane Crighton on marriage. After her marriage she moved to Perthshire and laterally became the organist in a church in Bridge of Earn. About 12 years ago a member of my church here in Carluke was being inducted as minister in the Bridge of Earn church and along with a bus load of others I attended. Jane's name was on the order of service so I went looking for her at the end. She had also been asking around folk if anyone knew if Christine O'Neill was in attendance. We met up and had a good old chin wag. Jane and I had actually met up in Edinburgh though in the 1980s as I used to sing nightly throughout the Summer months in a Scottish show for tourists at Prestonfield House. Jane was coming down to Edinburgh to meet up with someone so booked an overnight in a hotel and came along to the dinner and show. Over the years since I had left Whitehill we had kept in touch by exchanging Christmas cards and the occasional phone call.

However 3 years ago and again 2 years ago when her card came in I felt there was something wrong and wondered if she actually was suffering from dementia. I have not heard from her since Christmas 2017 so can only assume that either she has died or has moved into a care home.

She was a lovely lady and was very supportive of me at school. Jane came to Whitehill at the start of my 5th year which was 1965. I was not studying music at that time as Mrs Campbell the previous head of music had told me that I could not do higher music in singing as I could not play the piano. However following on from being adjudicated in the Bridgeton Burns Club Competition by Lillian Liddle a teacher at the RSAMD things all changed. Miss Liddle contacted Mr Morrison to ask why this pupil was not studying music, Jane and then my parents were all called to his office and it was agreed that I would study music in singing and learn to play the piano in 6th year. I was half way through 5th year at this stage and Jane came in early to school to coach me and also during lunch periods and sometimes after 4 o'clock. She also arranged immediately for me to be given piano lessons at school and then in 6th year music was a subject on my timetable. Jane certainly went the extra mile for me and I did get my higher music. When I phoned her to tell her on the morning that my results came in she said "well Christine I will tell you now that I thought that you were just going to miss getting the higher but I am delighted that you have managed it". She obviously had had her reservations about my chances but had kept that naturally to herself. I have always been so grateful to Jane for the encouragement that she gave me.

From Tom McNab

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

1

The books still breathe here,
Though now burnt to ashes
They can never leave us,
Their thoughts remain
Before we build again
Page by page,
Thought by thought
Word by word they stay
Embedded in the memories of those
That they for countless years surrounded.

3

Here in horizontal ruins
We stand inside within
His vertical imagination
Travel within his thoughts
Within the winding stairs of his creation.

5

The light, it always found a friend here,
Here atop the Hen Run
The place of women's sweetest thoughts
Their walk, their art, their chatter.
Truly, the air is drenched with them,
So there can be no fading of this sweet light
That remains forever.

2

This is black, this is burnt.
This is surely lost forever
But no; Mackintosh remains,
Even in cinders,
Even in shattered windows,
Broken walls
For he is yet alive,
No mere fire can ever take him from us.

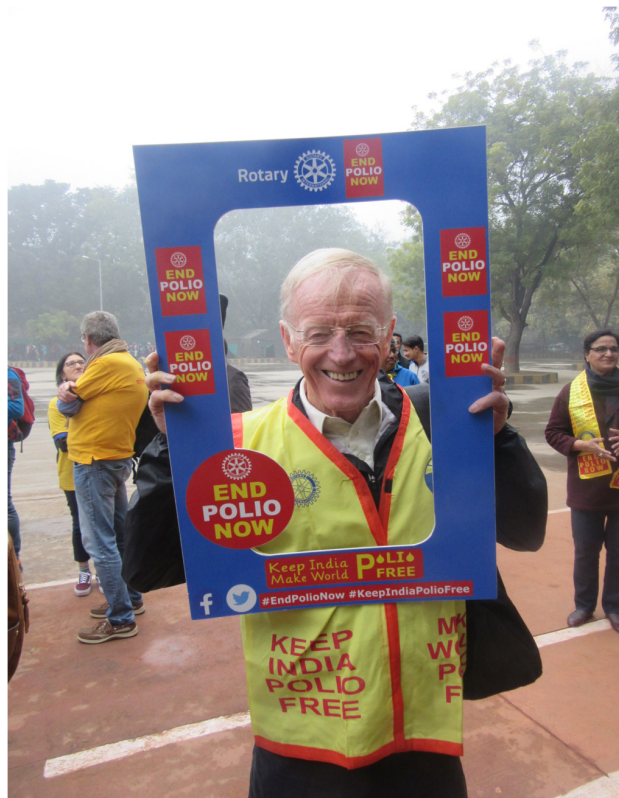
4

Do not try to understand,
For understanding has no place here
Only to be,
Only to see
Only to find joy
Within these distant past imaginings.

6

And others dwell here still,
Those stern, dreich Glasgow sires who bid him
build this,
Sat forever, stiff at their committee table,
Scottish men of commerce
Frozen in their thoughts,
But setting him free
To live his.

From Ken Logan



Ken is a very active member of Rotary and has served as President of Braids Rotary Club in Edinburgh on two occasions, over the years. He is currently District Polio Coordinator and spends his time visiting other clubs promoting the effort on polio eradication and raising funds for this work. He has recently been in India helping with oral polio vaccination, and later the same month in Tanzania donating sewing machines to a school and other sectors of local communities. Ken has recently been awarded the British Empire Medal for his community work.



President: **Iain McLean**
Past President: **Robin Brunton**
Secretary: **Iain Callander**, 6a Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh EH12 6HN:
secretary@whitehillfp.org