



Whitehill F.P.s' Club Newsletter

Issue 32

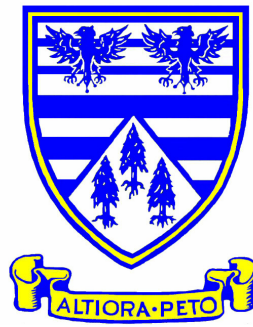
May, 2024

As you will see above, I have brought our issue number into the 21st century. Gone are the Roman numerals. It was just getting too complicated. I suppose that's also what the Arab scholars thought.

We had a very successful Spring Lunch at The House for an Art Lover, in Glasgow on Thursday 25th April. Some 33 F.P.s and guests attended and we enjoyed a good lunch following up with activities including the presentation of the achievement award, the installation of the new president and the raffle.



The Former Pupil achievement award was made to Professor Joe Clarke recognising his contributions to tertiary education at Strathclyde University, his research achievements and his long association with Whitehill School, F.P. rugby and on the F.P. committee. The citation is included on the following page. Joe accepted the award and spoke of his years at the school and the impact that many of his teachers had in forming his character and enthusiasm for learning.



Achievement Award 2024

presented to

Professor Joseph A. Clarke

BSc., Phd., Dsc., Hon FSE, CEnv., FEI., FIBPSA.

Joe Clarke grew up in the Townhead area of Alexandra Parade through the 1950's and into the 1960's. He attended Golfhill Primary School then on to Whitehill Senior Secondary in 1963. Apart from his academic studies at school, Joe had a keen interest in rugby and from first year played throughout his time at school and later for the former pupils' team. He also sneaked a few games for the FPs whilst still a pupil. He enjoyed Mathematics and Science subjects and in his final year was guided by the then careers master, Mr George Graveson, to apply for a place at Strathclyde University on a new course, Environmental Engineering in 1969. Four years of study saw Joe graduate with Bsc. (Hons, 1st class). This was followed by the award of Phd. also from Strathclyde in 1977. Dr Clarke was awarded several research fellowships and went on to lead teams of engineers researching energy systems simulation, urban new and renewable energy systems, efficiency and environmental impact and much more. In 1985, at the age of 35, Joe Clarke was appointed Professor, holding the position until retirement. He remains Professor Emeritus at Strathclyde University which he has served throughout his academic career. Professor Clarke has had many awards acknowledging his contributions in the field of energy systems, systems efficiency and simulation and outstanding teaching awards in 2010, 2015, 2016 and 2017. In 1989 he was awarded the Royal Society ESSO Energy Award. His work has been published in numerous technical journals and peer reviewed proceedings. To sum this up, Joe Clarke is "regarded internationally as the grandfather of the computational approach to built environment performance simulation"

Joe met Kathryn whilst still at school, at a school dance. They married in 1974 and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Joe Clarke is a Past President of the Former Pupils Dinner Club and has been a long serving committee member contributing much to the ongoing success of our club. He is without doubt a worthy recipient of our Whitehill Former Pupils Lifetime Achievement award.



Just before the close of proceedings, our president for the past 5 years, Iain McLean (our longest serving president), spoke briefly of his tenure. It had been an honour, some fun, and to reassure the new president, not at all taxing. Iain introduced Tom Rowlands who has taken on the role. Tom spoke of his years at school and his career as a chartered accountant and company secretary with an international, Scotland based, company. There is no doubt that Tom will bring some new ideas to our committee meetings.

Alan Wright

The article in last Newsletter on Alexandra Parade Cafe Culture stirred up many memories. The following email arrived from Alan Wright in Sydney.

If anyone else has similar memories please get it touch.

Dear Iain,

How many memories did the article on cafes in the last newsletter dredge up!

Our family, including me, moved to Portsmouth in 1940 and returned to Glasgow in 1949, the whys and wherefores are another story. We stayed with my granny at 120 Sword Street Dennistoun for a few months until we moved to Thornwood and then Knightswood.

I remember the Rendezvous so well as it was just up the street and passed every day as I continued to have lunch at my gran's place throughout my years at Whitehill.

In my final year -1956 – I met my wife Jean, then school vice – captain, on a Number 9 tram from George Square as she had to travel from the north side of the city. We obviously spent some time in the Rendezvous and also in The Bungalow with other schoolmates. We remember the juke box well and Knickerbocker Glories when we had saved enough to really splash out!

Tom McNab, (author, athletics coach and former pupil)

The Wonderful World of William Wilson.

It was just over seventy years ago that I made contact with the man who was to bring me into athletics. He was William Wilson, a 150 year old athlete who featured in the pages of the comic paper "The Wizard". I therefore make no apology for bringing him now to your attention.

Wilson was the construct of Gilbert Dalton, who had been prompted to create him by someone from my own club, Shettleston Harriers, the editor of the "Wizard", by name William Blain. Sir Roger Bannister expressed dismay when I informed him that the four minute mile had in fact been achieved in 1815, but less concerned when I said that it had been Wilson who had done so. Wilson could do anything. Having been given the elixir of life by a hermit called Matthew in 1812, he spent the rest of his life attacking every athletics record known to man. In the process, he cleared over seven feet in high jump, over nine metres in leaping The Pit of Fire in the Sahara, and over seventy feet in shot put. In the process, he quelled a Zulu rising in Africa, defeated a lost contingent of Ancient Romans, trained a disabled soldier to beat four minutes for the mile, and destroyed fleets of German planes as a Battle of Britain pilot.

My imagination feasted on the feats of William Wilson. In providing these illustrations I hope that I will have given you some idea of the source of an enthusiasm for athletics which has never dimmed.

Fraser Tonner (Quinns Rock, Western Australia)

Sport

Sport here in Western Australia is 'Footy', Aussie Rules Football. Footy has no rules, looks like rugby but you can pass forward and punch your opponents without consequence. I've never understood it. The other sport is Cricket. WA has just started playing Football or Round Ball as they call it but WA doesn't understand why Aussie footy is not a world sport.

News in WA is 75% sport with the balance comprising politics if the politicians are talking about sport.

There are other sports here but you can only take part if you have played a game of footy the day before.

Australians win at sport. Maybe they lose sometimes but it's an offence to report it or discuss it.

WA doesn't play rugby. Queensland and New South Wales play rugby.

Victoria / Western Australia and Tasmania play footy. That's just the way it is.

Beaches

We have a brilliant beach about 5 mins from the house. I swim there because it has a shark net. Two years ago a shark got inside the net. Locals decided it was safer to swim outside the net but then got eaten by sharks. The water is generally safe except for Blue Ring Octopus [really deadly] / Stonefish [Really

Deadly] / Box Jellyfish [really deadly] Hammerhead Sharks / Tiger sharks / Great White Sharks. There are also Bull Sharks but they are only in the rivers except when they are in the ocean. The salt water Crocodiles grow up to 6 metres so if you travel north, don't camp on the beach or go near the ocean or riverbanks and probably beware of puddles.

Autumn Lunch

It is not fixed absolutely, but the probable date for the autumn lunch will be Thursday, 24th October and it will probably be at the House for an Art Lover.

Please note: Secretary Telephone Number is now +44 (0)7780 991505

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