



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Issue XX, November 2020

Regrettably it looks like we are heading into a winter of "on and off" lockdowns as Covid 19 continues its course through the population. The important message is to follow the rules and stay safe. Although it is reported that a possible vaccine is on the horizon and hospital treatment methods for Covid have improved, the best defence will always be, not to catch it in the first place.

We have a few stories and reports for this issue which we hope will be of interest.

### **Firstly a message from Iain McLean, our president.**

Dear fellow Whitehill F.P.s,

I hope you are all well. It was disappointing that we could not hold our postponed 2020 annual dinner in September as planned. I was looking forward to a pleasant evening, meeting up with old friends and presenting the achievement award to Herbert Kerrigan. With the way events are unfolding the best we can hope for at the moment is that it may be possible to hold the dinner sometime after March 2021. (At least I can hold on to the presidents badge for a further year.) When we eventually re-convene it will be great to see everyone again and enjoy the entertaining guest speakers we have planned. It has been a difficult time and I hope that everyone has managed to get through the first lockdown and subsequent restrictions without too much stress. It has been an opportunity to catch up on gardening and indoor hobbies and interests. In my case it has been playing guitar using internet technology to create some music with fellow F.P.s Ron Fernand and Iain Callander. It has helped keep us sane. Looking forward to meeting up again in 2021.

Iain McLean, November 2020.

### **The Great Spoon Mystery: Can you help?**



The erudition and inventiveness of our readership is well known far and wide, so it came as no surprises when we received an email from Colin Hood in Melbourne, Australia to see if we could shed any light on the provenance of the spoon. The spoon belonged to his father Daniel Hood, a former pupil of Whitehill.

Despite enquiries we have not been able to get a handle on this, but we are not licked yet! We want your help in solving this mystery. In addition to correct and factual answers, we would be happy to receive short inventive fantasy suggestions e.g. a failed attempt to bring gracious

living to school dinners. This competition should appeal to all who have measured out their lives in coffee spoons. Any runcible spoons or spoonerisms will be judged on merit and the responses published in the next newsletter.

Then answers will be judged by our resident spoon expert Fraser Speirs, and, to ensure the integrity of the competition, the Reverend John Munro.

Use lockdown productively - reach for your quills now and receive your just desserts.

### **Mr John Kellett**



In a previous issue we showed a photograph of a group at school camp in Ullapool in 1962 with English teacher Mr Kellett at the front. We received an email from Connie Keogh who lives near Boston, Mass. Connie was a pupil from 1959-1963 and wished to join our club. We had several emails back and forth and she forwarded the following photograph of herself, her husband and John Kellett who, whilst visiting family in the Boston area, was a regular visitor to Connie and her husband at home.

### **Musings from Oz (part 3 continued). By Alan Wright.**

*In 1970, I became involved in the Pharmaceutical Science Group of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). At this time therapeutic goods legislation was being developed and this committee was responsible for ensuring that the industry was kept informed of all relevant developments, achieved mainly via seminars and conferences.*

*During a break at a conference in Sydney, I met up with Bob Munro who had been in my year at school but we had not kept in touch and I had no idea that he was in Australia. As I recall, Bob was working for Ciba Geigy, had married Ann Smith from school and was living in Sydney. Bob later moved to Canberra but we met up frequently during my professional visits there.*

*Several years later an acquaintance said that he had met a bloke with "the same accent as yours and that he is going to visit you tomorrow". Imagine our surprise and delight when Victor and Margaret Hugo turned up! Friends from schooldays that we had last seen at their wedding in Glasgow. They had travelled round the world and had been living in the same Sydney suburb, without us ever meeting. Consequently, we have been close friends with the Hallidays and Hugos, see the Munros a little less, for about 50 years in Australia and with pre emigration time added on, for nearly 70 years. Small world indeed.*

*In my working life I worked for multinational companies in various senior management roles and had the opportunity to travel on business in SE Asia, China, USA and Europe. On one occasion during a UK business trip, I was able to visit the school site just after it had been demolished and took away a piece of red sandstone from the gym building where I spent most of my 5th and 6th years. This trophy has been mounted on a small plinth, "Yesterday" to be inscribed.*

*Now retired with so much to do, including speaking at functions about Glasgow and its history. I joined a computer club for seniors but with technology moving so fast I think this is now best left to people younger than me. I still find occasion to wear my MacIntyre kilt when speaking at functions, church services and suitable social occasions. It still fits, although it seems to be made of similar shrinking material as my shirt collars!*

*In conclusion, look forward to retirement but don't worry if you have no detailed plans, because stuff happens. If you get bored, then you are not trying.*

Thank you Alan for your story which I have taken the editorial liberty of shortening. I think you could have an Aussie sub-club.

## **Finally a "joke"**

Submitted by a member of the committee who wishes to remain nameless.

*"I wanted to buy a door handle, so I phoned B&Q to ask them the size of the queue. They told me it was the same size as the B"*

## **Contributions to the Website and Newsletter.**

We welcome all your contributions, memories, stories etc relating to the school, its teachers (printable please) and indeed Dennistoun itself.

## **Membership of Whitehill FP Club**

If you are in touch with other former pupils please ask them to email our secretary to be included in the emailing list, and to obtain details of events.

We are keen to attract members from the 1960's, 70's and 80's and up to the present day to join us.

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