

# THE Pillars

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FORMER PUPILS & FRIENDS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE NOVEMBER 2009

## Special Anniversary edition

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# From the Director

Welcome to our special edition of the Pillars, celebrating three significant School anniversaries. High Times gives a potted history of the last 770 years since the School's foundation. In Celebrations we have included details of how we recently celebrated the granting of the Royal Charter, 150 years ago and how we plan to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the opening of the School on the current site.

We are delighted to include an article by our Head of History, Ian Wilson, A Happened Past, giving poignant accounts from former pupils, as part of our Oral History Archive, started this year.

The achievements of a selection of former pupils are celebrated in High Lives. Read about the difference they made and the challenges they faced.

We have news from the Foundation and High Hopes for future fundraising for the School as well as reports on this years Foundation events and plans for 2010.

This edition culminates with a few words from the Rector, Dr John Halliday, as he shares his thoughts about the future of the School and a reflective view about the 100th anniversary celebrations from the school magazine 75 years ago.

We hope that you enjoy this anniversary edition and would like to thank our sponsors Savills for their support. We look forward to hearing from you with your news for The Pillars 2010.



**Wendy Fowler** Director of Development



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### What do you think

We value your ideas for future issues of The Pillars. Please do keep sending us your news and stories, either by post to the Development Office, or by e-mail. Any news or opinions expressed in submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the school.



# High Times

**The oldest school in Dundee, reputedly the second oldest in Scotland and the 27th oldest school in the world! That is where we start the story of the High School of Dundee.**

**T**he first school was known as the Grammar School and the first glimpse of it comes at the beginning of the 13th Century, when in 1220, Gregory, the Bishop of Brechin granted a charter to the Abbot and Monks of Lindores, permitting them the right to appoint masters in the schools of Dundee. This implies that there is already some schooling being given in the town.



William Wallace

It was about sixty years after that, according to the poet Blind Harry, that William Wallace attended school in Dundee. The Wallace's home was at Elderslie and it was broken up during the invasion of Edward I. Wallace's father was forced to go into hiding but the boy and his mother found shelter with relatives, the Crawfords of Kilspindie. It was whilst attending the school in Dundee that Wallace had his celebrated encounter with Selbie, son of the Commander of the English garrison, quartered in the Castle of Dundee.

For a long time after this we hear little of the Grammar School, but in 1555 the Abbot of Lindores tried to dismiss the master, Thomas McGibbon because he was teaching Protestant doctrines to his pupils. The Town Council upheld the right to run the school and the Abbot replies by excommunicating the Councillors. In the end the Lords of the Congregation stepped in and McGibbon retained his position.

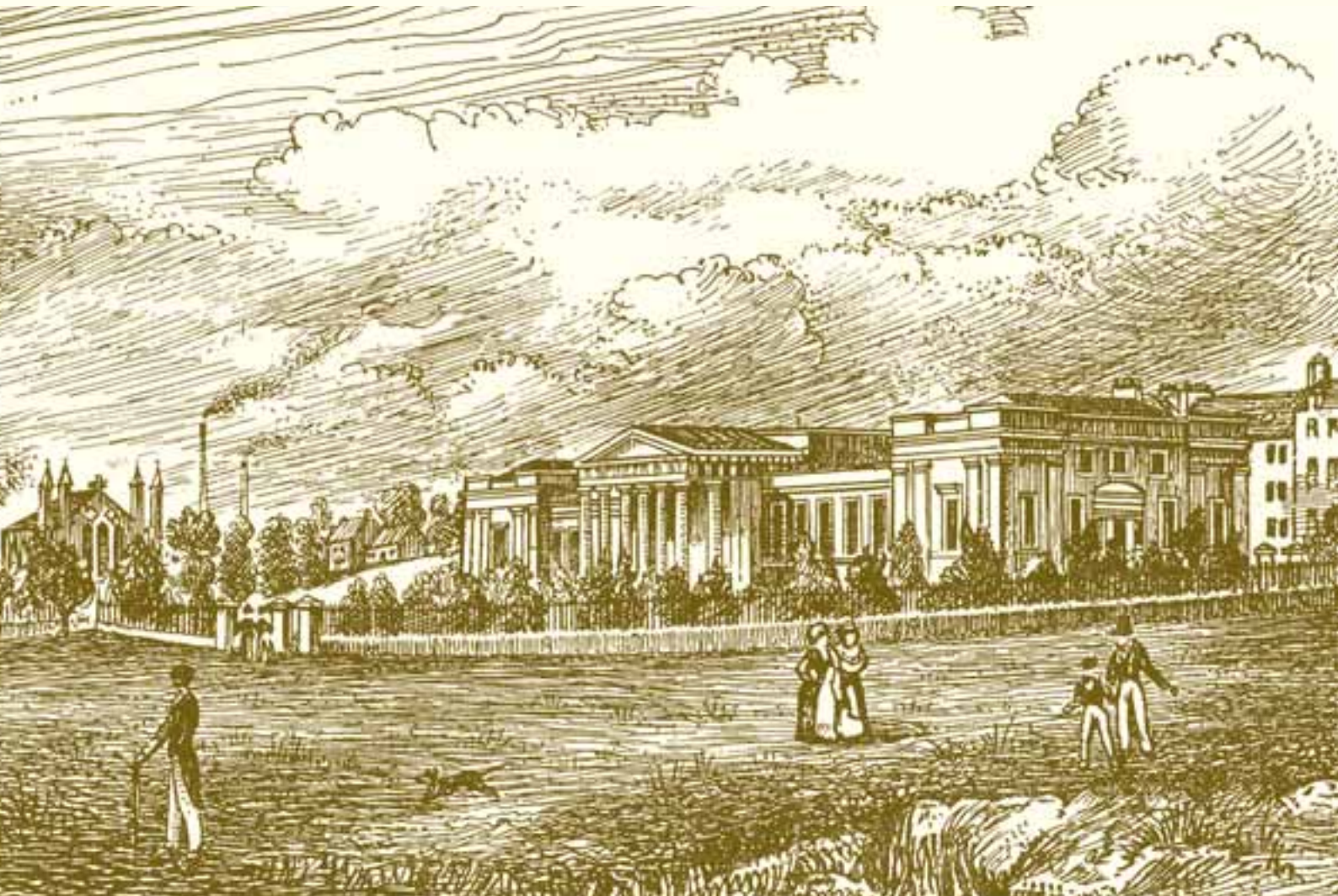
After the reformation the school flourished and in 1589, with a grant of £10 per year from the Queen, the Town Council provided it with a new building in St Clement's Lane. This was occupied for 200 years, when the scholars moved to another building in School Wynd.

In these early days the school taught Latin, Greek, Oratory, Grammar, Moral Letters and 'Gude Manners and Cumlie Order'. Lord Ferguson, the poet was a pupil for two years at Dundee Grammar School and he wrote quite a lot about his life at St Andrews University and Edinburgh.

There were now three burgh schools in the town; The English School had been established by the Town Council in 1702, although it had possibly derived from the Sang School, founded long before the reformation. Whatever its origin, its habitation was now under the Old Steeple.

Later, in the 18th Century, the school was moved. The flitting took scholars a little further west to a new building at the corner of Nethergate and School Wynd, now called Lindsay Street. This building was shared with the Grammar School.

The Town Council founded Dundee Academy in 1785 and it had leanings toward mathematics and the sciences. The building had been a hospital used by the Trinitarian Friars before the reformation. The academy was closed in 1795 but a legacy enabled it to be reopened in 1801 under a brilliant mathematician, Thomas Duncan. By 1820 it had again fallen on very hard times and the building was very dilapidated. St Andrew's RC Cathedral now stands where the Dundee Academy then stood.



Dundee Seminaries 1834

In 1829, a proposal took shape that the three burgh schools should be combined into one new building and the directors ultimately chose a site on the north side of the Meadows. The general concept was to place the new school in a position facing the Town House so that it would form a dignified termination to a projected new street leading from one to the other. The new building was designed and executed by George Angus, a distinguished Edinburgh architect who also designed the new street. Lord Kinnear laid the foundation stone on the 9th August 1832 and the foundation stone of the Earl Grey Dock was laid on the same day. It was also the day chosen for the celebration of Earl Grey's Reform Bill and the new street was therefore named Reform Street. The school building was completed in two years and officially opened on 1st October 1834 at a total cost of £10,000, the greater part of which had been obtained by public subscription from a group called the Subscribers, later the Patrons and now the Friends of the High School of Dundee. The school was called The Dundee Public Seminary.

Although they were now contained under one roof, the three schools continued to lead a separate existence in their own sweet way. There was no Rector and the teachers had a great deal of freedom. There is one episode of an early drawing master who found his classroom very cold. He was duly reprimanded by the directors for 'without knowledge or consent of the Clerk of Works, cutting an opening in the roof of his classroom to enable him to

fit up a stove.' Up until 1848 the salaries of the teachers were paid partly by the Town Council and partly by the Hospital Fund. The portion paid by the Town Council was raised by a tax of two pennies Scots on every pint of ale and beer brewed and vended in the town!

In 31st October 1859, The Directors obtained a Charter of Incorporation from Queen Victoria under which the name of the school was changed to The High School of Dundee. From some years until 1882, the head teacher's duties were performed in rotation by one of the Headmasters known as The Censors. Even then each of the nine Headmasters remained the uncontrolled head of his own department, and each piled on the work as if no department but his own existed. Some of them persistently ignored the school bell and there was a polite exchange of notes between headmasters, usually with no apparent result. At this time the school might be described as a school without a head or, like the fabled Hydra, one with nine heads! The masters had equal power and they collected their own fees from the pupils attending their classes and paid their own assistants. This was not altogether peculiar and it was not unique in Scotland, but at least it persisted in the High School until a very late date. It was 1883, before a Rector, Mr George Ross Merry was appointed. This came about because of the generosity of William Harris, Baker and Merchant. He had always been interested in the School, having been educated there himself. When the



School Board laid claim to the school in 1880, the school decided to dispute Harris's involvement and a long and expensive court case was envisaged. In order to expedite matters William Harris donated £10,000 to the School Board to build Harris academy and £20,000 to the High School so that it could remain independent, and for its development. He lived long enough to see Mr Merry appointed as the first Rector. His sister Miss Margaret Harris later donated a further £16,000 for the building and development of the Girls School. Indeed, the High School of Dundee might well have been more properly called the Harris Academy!

The High School was a leading source of education at this time and when a local art school was needed, John Kennedy Dublin was appointed in 1856 to teach evening classes under the title Dundee School of Art. The School of Art proved a huge success and within a few years over 200 students were enrolled, most in their late teens and twenties giving their profession as joiner or mechanics. This new provision was in line with the then government's intention to finance such evening class provision to teach art to the so-called artisan classes as a means of improving the quality of British workmanship and manufacturing. It was at the School of Art that almost all of Dundee's professional artists of the late 19th and early 20th century received their first art training. Such was the success of the evening classes that by 1900 it was noted that no fewer than 30 of the students had gone on to become Art Masters at the head of large institutions throughout Scotland and England. By 1901 the government commenced a major reorganisation of technical and art education and the evening classes at the School of Art at the High School ceased.



Mr George Ross Merry

During this time and with the appointment of George Ross Merry in 1883, the school entered a new era of its history and under its first Rector flourished and extended its activities and influence. Both Rector Merry and his successor John McLennan who became Rector in 1904, both grew old in the service of the school. Their self-sacrificing energy and deeds of wisdom went beyond all praise.

The third Rector Ian Bain took charge in 1932 and guided the school through the difficult years of the Second World War. He chose the School Motto *Prestante Domino* meaning With God as Guide from an old manuscript of Lindores. At that time the present school badge took the place of an older badge, which the Lord Lyon, King of Arms thought was unsuitable. It was designed by Colin Gibson, an Art teacher at the school and famous naturalist, and the design includes the Cross of St Andrew and the Crosier of the Abbot of Lindores the Crown of the Virgin, a Pot of Three Growing Lilies (representing Dundee) and a simplified version of the School Pillars.

Since then the School has flourished under a further five Rectors, Mr D W Erskine who took up post in 1955, Mr Ed Stewart who became Rector in 1970, followed by Mr Bob Nimmo in 1977, Mr A Michael Duncan in 1997 and our present Rector Dr John Halliday who joined the school in 2008. The school campus also continues to grow with the addition of the Trinity Hall in the 1980s, giving the school a multipurpose hall on the first floor and library provision on the ground floor. The Robert Ferguson Building and Bonar House in Bell Street have also provided much needed accommodation for the school and in 2006 a major development at Mayfield made provision for first class sports facilities for the school and the wider community.





# Celebrations

The drenching rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of over 1000 pupils and members of staff whilst waiting to see a real life Princess.



RH The Princess Royal was visiting the School to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter, allowing the school to be called The High School of Dundee. It was appropriate that Princess Anne conducted the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, as the Charter had been presented by her great, great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria in 1859.



After meeting members of the Board and Senior Management Team, the Princess visited the Board room to meet members of the School Associations, The Friends of the High School of Dundee, The Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs, the Parents' Association and the Foundation. The Development Office staged an exhibition showing the School's history over the last 770 years including images and information about famous former pupils, from William Wallace to KT Tunstall.

The Royal Party was then escorted by the Rector and Chairman to Trinity Hall where pupils and staff had set up displays showing the life of the School today, from the Junior School, through to Senior School, with all the extra curricular activities represented.

The Princess was then guided back to the Pillars where the Rector said a few words and invited her to unveil the plaque. HRH The Princess Royal then spoke to invited guests and the pupils who gathered in the playground. She said that "This School had set some very fine standards over the years and you have every right to celebrate. When I think of school, I admit that I go back to my Oxford English Dictionary. It defines education as training for life and I think that's what the High School here

in Dundee has been doing and will continue to do and the individuals that I have met today show that is really happening. So, congratulations on looking at your past and celebrating it, but that you can look forward with real confidence to the future."

The rain stopped temporarily as the Royal Party were shown to their cars and Princess Anne took the opportunity to speak to the pupils who were waiting patiently to wish her bon voyage.

It was a memorable day and one the pupils will always remember and a fitting start to the School's anniversary celebrations.

During the course of October the staff and parents will attend an informal buffet dance at the Hilton Hotel in Dundee in celebration of the anniversaries and at the end of October staff are arranging a fantastic event for pupils and their families called Party on the Pillars. The gathering will start in the early evening with pupil performances, bands and singers and culminate in a firework display from the roof above the Pillars!

The year of celebration will culminate in early December, with a Celebration Concert, organised by the music department, to be performed at the Caird Hall in Dundee.



High School 1939

# THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE A HAPPENED PAST

**Edward de Bono, the great educationalist and proponent of lateral thinking, once described memory as ‘*what is left when something happens and does not completely unhappen,*’ Yet this ‘happened’ past is fragile and vulnerable to the attrition of time and our own mortality: it is constantly ‘unhappening.’**

**C**onsequently, a great Scottish institution like the High School of Dundee, with its sinuous history winding back 770 years to its founding by the monks of Lindores Abbey, has carried with it a rich, yet fragile tapestry of memory woven by its students and teachers. Much of this has been lost and all of it is vulnerable, but with the extraordinary conjunction of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Charter incorporating High School of Dundee, the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Boys School (or Dundee Public Seminaries) and the 770th anniversary of the founding of the first school, it was decided to make this the occasion for a more permanent record of memories of our great school, which can be bequeathed to future generations, so that at least some of our ‘happened’ past is not lost forever.



The project has been driven forward by the High School's History Society. In small teams each dedicated to a decade, current pupils have tracked down Former Pupils and staff to begin the building of a permanent record of memory of life at the school. The technology of the modern school has been to the fore in this, with much of the work undertaken through the internet, sometimes with former pupils now living in the southern hemisphere. Others have been able to come to school and have been interviewed and recorded on digital camera, allowing us to found a digital archive, which we are confident will expand and develop for future generations. Already a great deal of invaluable history has been saved for posterity: what follows is a series of snapshots of a recent, yet strangely distant past, the High School around the time of its 700th anniversary.

In 1939, High School looked back with pride on its 700 hundred year history: arguably the oldest school in the country. In particular the association of Scotland's greatest freedom fighter, William Wallace, with the 13th century school was a source of great inspiration, as the school community and the country faced what all knew would be a struggle for survival against the seemingly inexorable shadow of Nazi dictatorship that was creeping across all the peoples of free Europe. In their interviews and reminiscences a number of those who lived through these extraordinary times have bequeathed us a remarkable legacy of a very different and vanished era.

The High School of the late 1930s, as described by our correspondents and former pupils Jean Bryson (nee Gordon), Grace Suckling (nee Brown), John Blair, Morrison Dorward and Douglas Bell, might seem to modern eyes 'a serious house on serious earth.' In their words it was a place where slate squeaked on slate as words were copied down and sums were patiently calculated, where pupils were to be seen, but rarely heard, where the tawse might crack and the cane swish. Girls were kept separate from boys until 4th Year and the Rector, (or the 'beak'), Ian 'Baldy' Bain, would personally tour each classroom, handing out shiny green end of term report cards, with suitable comments of course – in Douglas Bell's case this was usually '*easily distracted and lacks concentration!*' Morrison Dorward recalls his first three days at school: he was late on three consecutive mornings, despite repeated warnings from his teacher, Mr Taylor. On the third occasion the belt was considered to be the last recourse. What Morrison did not explain was that his father was Dundee's Police Doctor and was responsible for bringing him into school each morning. On three consecutive nights he was called out in the early hours, hence Morrison's late arrivals. What seems remarkable to modern eyes would be the fact that Morrison never sought to offer an explanation to Mr Taylor; but these were different times and pupils had a much more formal and constricted relationship with staff.

We should also not forget that the staff themselves had lived through a far tougher environment than their modern descendants. Many were Victorians and many had served through the Great War, arguably the greatest trauma that British society has ever had to face. 'Ike' the Games Master was a case in point. All our correspondents were on the receiving end of his tough training at Dalnacraig: a boy who did not tackle low enough in rugby practice might find himself on the receiving end of some tuition from his cane! Yet, as Mr G.C. Stewart (the legendary former Depute Rector of the High School) has pointed out, 'Ike' had instructed troops in bayonet drill on the killing fields of Gallipoli; rather different training from that received by modern teachers!

There is no doubt that memories of the Great War cast long shadows over the 1939 school. Douglas Bell well remembers 'Sergeant' Smith, the school's janitor. A quiet and dignified man, he always had a kindly word for the pupils as he strode through the playground in his navy blue suit, shiny cap and sergeant's stripes. Jean Bryson especially recalls his shiny leather belt with its pouch for notes to be passed to teachers (no 'texting' for this generation!). Douglas remembers one morning coming into school

and finding the Lodge where the janitor lived cordoned off by police and the curtains drawn. Sergeant Smith and his wife had gone to bed and left the gas on. The rumour circulated that this was because he could not face the trauma of going through the experience of war again...if this was true, then it must have been an emotion felt by many at that time, something that we have tended to forget today.

Yet while in some respects the 1939 school presents the stereotypically harsh image of schools of that vintage, in our correspondents accounts there are incidents that challenge and soften this impression. There was sport, as important in the lives of our pupils then as now; there were parties and end of term dances. There was the School Sports (at Dalnacraig then, of course) and there was the Literary and Debating Society for the more cerebral students. And there was the 'show'. This was usually a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta and as Morrison Dorward points out, because this was a thoroughly collaborative event involving staff and pupils, the old formality quickly dissolved and relationships rapidly changed. Indeed, hard though the regime might have seemed at times, there was also tenderness and passion just beneath the surface and on rare occasions it did emerge. Douglas Bell tells how his sister, Dorothy Ramsay Bell, would take notes written by her teacher, Wally Marshall, back and forth to his lover in a different classroom – a world before e-mail, but a tender and touching one for all that. Jean and Grace (who first met in 1928 and now remarkably both reside in the same small coastal town of Waikanae in New Zealand!), fondly remember life in the Girls School, with Jessie the maid, spic and span in her black dress, starched white cuffs, collar and cap, 'peggy purses' (buns and biscuits) purchased from the Tuck Shop, hop-scotch and skipping with a heavy rope 'cawed' by girls holding each end singing ditties that stretched back into an even more distant, now forgotten past:

***'I'm a Girl Guide dressed in blue  
See all the actions I can do  
Salute to the King and bow to the Queen  
Stand at ease, bend my knees...'***

In 1939 War loomed over this proud and venerable institution: little would remain unchanged. Teachers were called to the colours and pupils were evacuated. Morrison Dorward recollects being sent to a village school at Newbigging, where he found all the pupils being taught in one room, clustered around a stove! The High School remained closed until its defences were ready for the onslaught of the Luftwaffe. Within four months the four corner rooms in the Boys School (or 'Main Building' as it was renamed recently) were reinforced with steel beams and pillars and the windows filled with sandbags. On returning to the school Morrison discovered that every day all the school bells would ring and this would signal a mass exodus of the whole school into these four rooms. Crammed in here, sweating and suffocating under 'Mickey Mouse' gas masks, pupils fought claustrophobia waiting for the 'all clear'.

Yet even as Winston Churchill was defiantly (and desperately) announcing that '*now it has come to us to stand alone in the breach and face the worst that the tyrant's might and enmity can do,*' the High School's pupils were stepping forward. At night pupils participated in a monthly rota to ensure that the High School's venerable stones survived the Blitz that all expected. With all the young male staff called up, pupils participated in fire-watch at night. Between 7 pm and 8 am they toured the buildings in the pitch dark of the black-out, searching for fires. Others were on the roof, listening for the deadly metallic clatter of incendiary bombs. Equipped only with stirrup-pumps and buckets of water drawn from an enormous storage tank that was placed in the playground (which GC Stewart assures me subsequently caused more of a threat to curious pupils health than Hitler and Goering's legions!), they waited and watched over the school that they were so proud of.



# THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE A HAPPENED PAST

While Dundee was hit by a few stray bombs and civilians were killed, fortunately 'the tyrant's might' was largely directed elsewhere. Yet the War did have a major effect on life at the school in other ways. Extra-curricular activities were hard-hit. With petrol severely rationed, playing fixtures became impossible and as John Blair and Morrison Dorward, relate even evening based activities like the Literary and Debating Club were difficult and dangerous to attend during the black-out, when it was so dark that 'you couldn't see where buildings stopped and the sky began.'

But the most damaging effects of the war were psychological, rather than physical. Food was rationed and school meals very basic. John Blair remembers going to Keillers restaurant at lunch time in 1943 to supplement his drab diet. As he entered a radio was on and a newsreader was announcing the loss of Singapore to Japan and the sinking of the battleships 'Prince of Wales' and 'Rekown.' Even today he could still feel that creeping sense of cold that wrapped itself round his heart as the packed restaurant sat in numbed silence. Today few would appreciate the significance of the loss of Singapore: but Dundee was a port and city built on Empire and Singapore was the greatest symbol of Britain's imperial might. Everyone there knew this was an unthinkable hammer blow against the Empire itself: indeed its days were numbered and passing quickly.

Within the school deep and sometimes dark passions also stirred. Douglas Bell relates how rumours quickly circulated amongst pupils that the teacher of Commerce, Mr Cadzow, was a German spy. This was, of course, absurd! Yet there was constant speculation and 'greatly exaggerated stories of his lifestyle after school hours; as he reputedly plotted the downfall of the High School! Nor was Mr Cadzow the only member of staff to suffer. George Bruce was probably the most distinguished teacher at the High School in the 20th century. For twelve years he taught English and became a key figure in the Scottish Renaissance spearheaded by Hugh MacDiarmid. Bruce's poetry led to him being dubbed 'the poet laureate of the North East' and he later went on to work for the BBC. However, during the war years his presence at the school clearly caused tensions in the Staff Room: like that other great Scottish poet and dominie, Norman MacCaig, he was a Conscientious Objector. These tensions spilled over on occasion, as John Blair witnessed one day. He was passing the old Staff Room entrance, at the west side of the Boys School, when he saw George Bruce (whom he greatly admired), emerge. He was holding the side of his face: one of the other masters had punched him.

However, the saddest episode from this period relates to Karl Bowman. Karl was a young German boy who joined Douglas Bell's class, where he was 'hounded and taunted by us.' He would sit in class cowering 'like a frightened rabbit' as pupils shouted 'Seig Heil!' and 'Heil Hitler!' The staff did nothing to intervene, yet they knew something about Karl that the pupils did not: he was a Jewish refugee who had fled to Dundee to escape Nazi persecution in Germany. Although the truth about Karl Bowman's background was eventually revealed, almost three quarters of a century later, Douglas still feels a sharp pang of regret and sense of guilt in relation to his fellow pupils' reaction. In this more modern, more open and more liberal era it is easy to think that nothing like this could happen again, but we would be wise to heed the words of the modern Nazi



historian Richard Evans: 'the Third Reich raised...the possibilities and consequences of the human hatred and destructiveness that exist, even if only in a small way, in all of us.' While from a distance we can admire the courage, determination and sense of duty of a generation that 'stood in the breach' under the greatest threat, we should also remember that ultimately the experience of war is harsh and we should be grateful that it was not our generation that was forced to endure its corrosive consequences.

Thus through the work of our dedicated current pupils in the History Society and the kind and occasionally frank co-operation of some of our Former Pupils and staff, some of our 'happened past' survives to be passed on to future generations: it will not 'unhappen' now. In this year of anniversaries we have begun a project which we hope will continue to progress long after we who initiated it are gone: perhaps for another 770 years! As this archive develops our school's past will not only be preserved, but be brought to life and continue to grow richer, as decade by decade. Former Pupils continue to contribute their thoughts and memories. Is there any real value to this? We believe so, at least in part because what we have uncovered so far supports Aldous Huxley's assertion that: 'the charm of history and its enigmatic lesson consist in the fact that, from age to age, nothing changes and yet everything is completely different.' Our evidence is gradually revealing a school with rich, unchanging traditions and values, yet one where even from the vantage of a single lifetime, everything can appear to be 'completely different.' And these traditions and differences are important, because ultimately this is our history and as such 'a guide to navigation in perilous times...it is who we are and why we are the way we are,' and this surely matters....as Jean and Grace, who first met at the school 81 years ago and have continued as close friends half a world away said: 'thank you Dundee High School for what you gave us...you are always with us..'

If any F.P. or former teacher reading this (of whatever vintage!) would like to contribute to our growing archive please contact me at the following e-mail address: [ierwilson@dundeehigh.dundecity.sch.uk](mailto:ierwilson@dundeehigh.dundecity.sch.uk)



## OUR JAM JUTE AND JOURNALISM CONNECTIONS AND MUCH MORE

Since the foundation of the School there have been many pupils who have achieved great things in their lives. Here are a very few.

### A STICKY BUSINESS

The name Keiller is synonymous with Marmalade and it was one of our Former Pupils, John Mitchell Keiller who made the family name so famous. John was the grandson of the founder of the company James Keiller and it was he who became what would now be known as the Marketing Director and built the strong brand for Keiller Jams.

### From Dundee With Love

**I**n the mid 19th century, Robert Fleming attended the school with his brother with the assistance of a bursary.

On leaving School he became a book keeper to Edward Baxter, an expert in American studies and also one of the original Subscribers to the building of the Dundee Seminaries. Baxter encouraged Robert to visit America where he was impressed with all of the investment possibilities for the huge profits from the jute industry into under valued railway companies. He later helped to launch the First Scottish American Trust and in 1890 Robert moved their offices to London. By the time of his death he had built the largest investment trust companies in the City of London. Fleming helped Dundee financially and made many generous bequests one to help demolish slum housing and the building of new houses. Fleming Gardens in Dundee were built as a result of his generosity. For those of you who believe in the theory of six degrees of separation you will be interested to know that Robert Flemings grandson was the famous author, Ian Fleming, Far from his grandfather's early roots, Ian attended Eton and later received a commission at Sandhurst. Ian's friend and neighbour was Noel Coward and his son's godfather was Clarissa, Anthony Eden's wife. Another grandson, Ian's brother, Peter, was a renowned travel writer and keeping up the now established celebrity traditions, he married actress, Celia Johnson, who starred in the classic British romantic film, Brief Encounter. Flemings bank was bought over by Chase Manhattan Bank in 2000 for a reported £ 4.88 billion, which brings to mind the saying that great oaks from tiny acorns grow.

### Oor Wullie

The red sandstone building at the top of Reform Street in Dundee is testimony to the part that D.C Thomson has played and continues to play in the town. David Coupar Thomson after whom the newspaper company was named, was born in 1860 and he established the company in 1905. David built the company which now prints several daily papers as well as many well known comics and journals. It is suggested that the Bash Street Kids in the Beano Comic were based on some of the pupils observed from the office windows of the Courier building! D C Thomson is a brand known all over the world and one of the few local daily papers in production.



### THOSE MAGNIFICENT SCOTS... OUR ADVENTURERS !

Just before D C Thomson set up his company an intrepid young man born in 1880, Preston Watson,

declared that one day men would fly like birds. He had an avid interest in birds and their flight patterns and studied them keenly. Preston believed that gliding birds held the key to flight by dipping their wings in turn. So he built a glider plane with a small upper plane, called the parasol plane with a tail like a box kite. He attempted to fly it first near Dundee and later at Errol. He waxed the glides with lard and tried to develop an engine light enough yet powerful enough to drive the plane. He is rumoured to have achieved a take off between 1903 – 1904, at about the same time if not before Wright's first powered flight!

### Mark Beaumont Class of '99, Guinness World Record Breaker



Famed for smashing the world record for cycling around the world, Mark is now off on another adventure. His challenge will see him cycling from Alaska, with a 20 day ascent of Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America to the sub-Antarctic tip of South America. There he will climb Aconcagua, the biggest mountain outside of Asia.. He will cover 15,000 miles in a gruelling cycle ride, finishing his adventure at Ushuaia in Patagonia in February 2010. You can follow Mark's progress [www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/cyclingtheamericas](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/cyclingtheamericas)



On 23rd November 2008, me, my father Alex (70), my oldest son Cameron (14), my brother-in-law Stephen plus three other crew members left Las Palmas in Gran Canaria for the adventure of a lifetime. Seventeen days later we arrived in Rodney Bay, St Lucia having sailed across the second largest Ocean in the world, the Atlantic Ocean - a journey that every sailor dreams about.

# One Amazing Trip - Three Generations

by Scott Gibson, Class of 1982

**M**y interest in sailing first started at the age of 9 when my father and I learned to sail at the Grassy Beach Sailing Club in Broughty Ferry now Dundee Sailing Club. From that day onwards I became hooked on sailing. All through my school years and beyond I sailed most weekends and evenings during the season, mainly at The Royal Tay Yacht Club. When most other young men were playing rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics at the weekends, I was regularly competing in local and national regattas.

Our adventure across the Atlantic involved us taking part in 'The Atlantic Rally for Cruisers' (ARC) and in the 23 years since it began it has become the most popular way to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Every year around 220 boats of all shapes, brands and sizes take part in this event which covers approximately 3,000 miles.

The boat we sailed on the ARC was our new Oyster 72 which I had just only taken delivery of after 3 long years of planning. We named her "Stravaig of Argyll" - Stravaig being Scottish vernacular for 'to wander aimlessly' - which is entirely appropriate given our plans for the boat for the next few years! The Argyll part of the name because as a family we have spent a lot of our summer holidays in Argyll and sailing on the West Coast. I was proud to be able to register this boat in Dundee and to represent The Royal Tay Yacht Club. Apart from the delivery to Gran Canaria this trip was to be the boats 'maiden voyage'.

The race started in Las Palmas, the capital of Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands. Here there was a great carnival atmosphere with street performers including brass bands and lots and lots of spectators walking along the promenades watching the boats preparing for their long journey. The locals made us all feel very welcome and hosted a number of parties in the run up to the start of the race, some of which we attended!

Leaving Gran Canaria was an amazing experience. Marching brass bands and carnival performers and huge crowds of people lined the route out of the harbour. It was incredible! We felt extremely proud of the boat and the fact it was going to take part in this race. The crowds continued all along the harbour walls. As well as the excitement of the moment there was also the apprehension of knowing that this was the last time we would see land for at least another two to three weeks. The one thing I remember most vividly about us leaving was the silence that descended on board once all the noise of the foghorns, crowds and bands began to drift

away. It was very eerie indeed. Nobody on board spoke. There was tension, apprehension and anxiousness all around as everyone on board began to contemplate the journey ahead. I for one had so many "what ifs" in my mind. Like what if one of us got hurt? What if we suffered from sea sickness? What if we encountered extremely bad weather and had a problem with the boat? It was also clear that everyone else was having similar thoughts.

The trip normally takes between 14 and 21 days depending on the size of the boat. We were aiming for around 15 days.

The winds during an Atlantic crossing are typically what are called Trade Winds with a strength of around 15 - 20 knots and they blow predominately from the North East in the Northern Hemisphere. In order to pick up these winds we knew we would have to head south for around 300 - 400 miles along the West coast of Africa before turning west. During the voyage we received daily weather forecasts via email to help us track the winds. There is however a slightly less technical way of knowing when to turn west and that is the old saying that you should head south and then turn right when the butter melts!

Unfortunately for us, the Trades did not appear as expected which meant that we had to sail roughly 300 miles further south than originally anticipated, and even then we still didn't find them! Instead we found a low-pressure area of calm, light and variable winds near the equator which mariners call The Doldrums, hence people are said to be in the doldrums when they are down or depressed. These light winds meant that we barely moved for parts of the trip. We had to go so far south, that at one point on around the 6th day of the trip we could see the Cape Verde Islands just off the west coast of Africa.

Another aspect of the weather which is common on the Atlantic are squalls which bring with them high winds and lots and lots of heavy rain.



These squalls would ordinarily arrive within a few minutes, usually coming from behind us. The winds could range from a reasonably manageable 25 - 30 knots but sometimes they got up to around 40 knots. We would always get warnings about an approaching storm. During the day we would usually be able to see them and at night we were able to track them using our radar.

An approaching squall would mean we would have to reef or in laymen's terms, reduce the size of both the mainsail and foresail. Very often these squalls would be over as soon as they arrived. However they were often fierce!

In order to keep watch for things like wind changes, damage to the boat, floating debris, oncoming ships or generally things happening, we put in a place a watch system for the duration of the trip. This comprised 3 hours on watch and 6 hours off. Each watch consisted of two people, one watch leader and one mate. There would be a change over half way through everyone's watch which meant that everyone only spent a maximum of an hour and a half with any one person. This pattern meant that I spent half of my watch with my son and the other half with my father - now that was special!

Six hours sounds like a long time to be off, especially when it comes around every three hours; however I can assure you that it was not. At night, once you came off watch and had some food, you would be lucky if you got around four or five hours of broken sleep before you had to get up again for your next watch. Our body clocks got into such a mess. You didn't know whether it was day or night and after a while you realised that the best way to deal with this shift pattern was to sleep whenever you got the chance to whether it was for the full period or just for an hour, even in the middle of the day!

Safety on the boat was by far and away the most important thing we had to consider at all times. Prior to the trip we all undertook a Sea Survival Course which taught us how to stay alive at sea in the event of a catastrophe. On board there were the usual life jackets which we all had to wear during the hours of darkness. Man overboard wrist bands were worn at night too which would set an alarm off on board and plot the whereabouts of the crew member on the navigation system were they to fall overboard. We had to carry a torch at all times during the night and we all had to use our safety harness if we ever had reason to leave the relative safety of the cockpit during the hours of darkness. This was clipped on to the safety line to stop us falling overboard.

Knives were stationed all around the boat for use in the emergency if a rope has to be cut and, of course, we had lots of life rafts and other safety equipment.

Some of the natural sights we saw on the trip were absolutely incredible. The sunsets never ceased to amaze me. One of the highlights of the trip for me was the night sky, the likes of which we never ever see in the city due to light pollution. Until then I had never seen quite so many stars. Also the moon started new when we first left Las Palmas and became full by the time we got to St Lucia which meant that towards the end of the trip the sky was so bright at night that it was possible to read a book without a torch!

Shooting stars were another amazing phenomenon. It was like a full blown fireworks display on occasions! We also spotted many satellites tracking across the sky as they orbited the planet.

Some of the wildlife in the Atlantic was amazing as well. We saw plenty of wild dolphins swimming around our boat and riding on our bow waves! These dolphins would regularly swim with us for the whole night giving us a natural light show, looking like torpedoes in the phosphorescent darkness screaming past the boat and riding the waves around us. Incredible!

We did a lot of fishing along the way. We caught some amazing fish including a huge King Mackerel which we cut into steaks and made into Sashimi and just about any other fish dish you could think of! We also saw millions of flying fish. At night time they would often land on deck which was a bit disconcerting and quite scary. They are also very smelly fish so it was important they were cleaned away if they did land on deck!

At 5am on 10th December we had our first sight of land. It was spectacular sight. St Lucia was lit up in front of us by the new full moon and the sun which was rising from behind us. Everyone came onto deck for the final few hours of the journey. We eventually crossed the finishing line at 7.02 am 17 days after leaving Gran Canaria

After docking and clearing customs we were able to take our first steps back on land which felt very strange indeed. Naturally there was a mad rush for the bar and the locals made us feel very welcome arranging street parties and the like for all the arriving competitors.

For me the most amazing aspect of the trip was having the opportunity to spend this much time with my father and my eldest son. There can't be too many people who have spent this long in such close confines with two of their closest family members without fighting - not once! Truly the trip of a lifetime!



## Foundation

The Foundation was set up in 2001 to support the work of the school and co-ordinate its fundraising efforts. This has been achieved by running events, working with individuals, Charitable Trusts and School Associations and by starting initiatives to generate much needed income. Our thanks go to each and every person who has helped to raise hundreds and thousands of pounds since 2001. Your support is invaluable to the pupils and helps to enhance their experience of the School.

## Events



### A Little Light Music

In keeping with the national Homecoming initiative throughout Scotland, the Foundation welcomed 3 former pupils, all musicians, back to the school for a concert recently. The concert was entitled 'A Little Light Music' and the evening started with a medley of rousing Songs of the Sea by C V Stanford, sung by former pupil, President of the Old Boys' Club and Board Member, Ken Murray. His baritone voice resounded around Trinity Hall and set high expectations for the rest of the evening. He followed later in the programme with two amusing songs by Flanders and Swann, Ill Wind and The Gasman Cometh. He was accompanied by renowned concert pianist and former pupil, Christina Lawrie. Christina then thrilled the audience with two solo pieces, Chopin's 4th Ballade and as a finale to the evening, the Mephisto Waltz by Liszt. The third former pupil was Amy Watson on violin. She has just left School and is about to start her medical studies in Dundee. Amy played two very challenging pieces with great confidence, Albinoni's Sonata in G Minor and the rousing Czardas by Vittorio Monti. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the concert including the glass of wine before the performance and the opportunity to speak with the performers at the end of the evening. This proved to be a really fun way to raise much needed money for bursary support. Further musical events are planned for 2010.

### Foundation Garden Party

In early May guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Foundation Garden Party in the beautiful garden of Mr & Mrs John Dent. Guests were piped in by three pipers from the School Pipe Band and the music continued with the mellow tones of a woodwind trio. The trio called The Fauchaldean Players, played tunes with a floral connection and guests had great fun guessing the flowers and completing the musical flower quiz. The musical theme continued with the Rector and a group of sixth year string players who entertained everyone with a variety of well known pieces. Members of the Parents' Association served teas and made sure that the guests enjoyed the afternoon. With the sun streaming down and guests laden down with plants from the well stocked plant stall, the party finally finished with a warm vote of thanks from Foundation Chair, Sheena Leadbitter. She thanked Mr and Mrs Dent for their generosity and the musicians for entertaining everyone before announcing the winners of the raffle prizes and thanking the raffle prize donors as well as the assembled guest, for making the afternoon such a success.



### Holding Court

Mary Queen of Scots held court recently with friends and supporters of the High School of Dundee Foundation at their Fundraising Dinner and Auction in Dundee. Mary, the alter ego of historian Lesley Smith, entertained guests with tales of Elizabethan Britain, her life and loves and her tempestuous relationship with her cousin Elizabeth 1. Guests were delighted to be piped in by a group of pipers from the School Pipe Band and then enjoyed pre-dinner drinks on the lawn at the Invercarse Hotel.

After dinner the raffle winners were announced, along with the inaugural winners of the Foundation's lottery, the 770 club. The evening ended with a sizzling auction run by professional auctioneer Stephen Dewar of Curr and Dewar who cajoled guests into parting with their money. Guests agreed that it was a really happy successful evening and they left knowing that they had not only enjoyed themselves, but, helped to provide much needed funds for bursary support for pupils.





### Discover Art

Art lovers from all over Tayside joined the Friends of the High School of Dundee, at the Discover Art event, on Wednesday 30th September, in support of the Foundation. The evening sale was held at the Eduardo Alessandro Studios in Broughty Ferry, thanks to the kind sponsorship of Sandro Paladini, himself a parent. This super one off event featured the work of over 20 of Scotland's leading artists, many of them former pupils, parents or teachers of the School. There was an exciting twist to the event, with the participating artists selling several pieces of their work as well as a miniature painting, just big enough to be exhibited in a C D disc cover. After a glass of wine the guests viewed and bought their favourite pieces of art. A truly wonderful evening.

### 770 Club

In May the Foundation launched our very own small private lottery and within 4 months we reached our century! We now have 100 members who take part in our monthly draw. Established to mark 770 years of excellence in education the club offers a top prize of £ 200 plus five prizes of £ 20. Many parents current and former pupils, as well as staff have won prizes and helped to

support the work of the Foundation in raising money for bursaries, funding pupils when they most need our help. Membership is £10 per month for 10 unique numbers which are drawn by the Development team. If you are not already a member please join and if you win you can experience the joy of having the Bursar sending you a cheque and not the other way around! Please contact [development@highschoolofdundee.co.uk](mailto:development@highschoolofdundee.co.uk) to sign up.

### The Heritage Society

The ongoing generosity of people interested in the School remains vital to ensure that the distinctive opportunities offered, are enhanced and preserved, for future generations yet to be

born. Seeking to secure the long term sustainability and development of the School, the Foundation in association with the Board has established The Heritage Society, which can be joined by all who make provision for the School in their will. Until now the School has been unable to properly acknowledge donors by legacy, in their lifetime. It is our intention that all our Benefactors should be recognised in some form, if they so wish. Those who prefer to remain anonymous can be assured that their pledges will be treated in confidence.

The inaugural lunch for members of the newly formed Society was held in May and the Foundation and Board were able to thank the members for their generosity.

If you would like to leave a legacy and become a member of the Heritage Society, please contact the Development Office to arrange a meeting.

### New Year's Resolution

If you were not able to come along to the Art Sale, you will be interested in a new venture the Foundation is planning for 2010. Every month one artist will be featured in our virtual Art Gallery. Each artist taking part has offered to sell one piece of their work and give a 40% donation to the Foundation. So from the beginning of January look in the Foundation section of the website for our Artist of the Month!

The Foundation are planning the following events.

**29TH MAY 2010**  
**Performance of the Tempest by the Festival Players**  
 Mayfield grounds.  
 Bring a picnic!

**JUNE 2010**  
**A Golf Day**

**Further Musical Evenings in Trinity**  
 Watch the website for further details.

## We've Got High Hopes!

Fifty years ago, Frank Sinatra recorded High Hopes, an inspirational song about being motivated to succeed. To mark the founding of the High School of Dundee 770 years ago, the Foundation are echoing Sinatra's sentiments and launching our own High Hopes Campaign with inspirational plans for our future fundraising.

Each year we will update you about the progress of the Foundation's campaign, its aims and successes. Your help will provide support for our bursary programme and pay for new initiatives. The focus of the campaign will change annually to reflect the needs of the school. At this time, our emphasis is on our bursary programme and all of our joint fundraising efforts will go towards this vital cause.

During February 2010, we will be contacting you as former pupils and friends of the school to ask for your commitment to support pupils who need financial help, particularly during these challenging economic times. This annual appeal will give you the choice to help in the way that suits you best. From a one off cash donation, monthly direct debit or membership of our 770 Club Lottery. Later in the year we will report on the success of the campaign and the difference your help made to pupils at the start of their academic career.

**We've got High Hopes!**



### 2009 Class Reunion

It was a very sunny day all round. Around 80 former pupils from the classes of 1967 - 1970 gathered in Trinity Hall at the start of their reunion day. There was, of course, some nervousness (would I recognise anyone, would anyone recognise me) and although there were the obvious physical changes, most people had retained the same characteristics which distinguished them years before and everyone was soon renewing the friendships made, in some cases, over 40 years ago.

After coffee participants were free to look round some of the classrooms which they inhabited. "It was so nostalgic to visit the classrooms in the company of our old school friends" said one participant. Everyone enjoyed touring the school and it worked well having a few years coming back together.

Lunch was provided in the Dining Hall - not the same venue as in the 1960s but the food was good, a glass of wine was provided and the only thing missing it seemed was steamed pudding and custard - on the menu every day back then.

To round off the school visit several group photographs were taken at the Pillars including one of all the years together. Coming back to the school seemed to be a trip down memory lane for many. Everyone met up again in the evening for dinner and more catching up which went on until the wee small hours but completed a perfect day.

### Class of '86

The Class of 1986 are holding a reunion on Saturday 14th August 2010 and would like to hear from anyone from that year who would like to join them. Please contact [f.morrison@totalise.co.uk](mailto:f.morrison@totalise.co.uk)

## LADIES' LONDON LUNCHEON

The ninth biennial London Lunch took place on 7th March, once more at the East India Club, St James's Square. All those present enjoyed a delicious meal in splendid surroundings and the opportunity to catch up with old friends and, not least, to hear from the new Rector about his initial impressions of High School of Dundee and his ambitions for its future. Our after-lunch speaker was Ruth Ward (née Bremner, class of '65), who gave a most interesting talk about her work as a (multi-lingual) Blue Badge Guide in Oxford. Along with contemporary anecdotes, Ruth presented some fascinating historical links between some of the Oxford Colleges, Dundee and St Andrews.

The next London Lunch will be held on Saturday, 5th March 2011. This may seem a long time off, but it's amazing how quickly it comes along, so make a note of the date in your 'advance planner' now. Any former pupil who is not already on the mailing list but who would like to attend should contact Morag Stalker at [moragstalker@aol.com](mailto:moragstalker@aol.com) or via the Development Office so that we can send further information in due course.

Shortly after this year's lunch, we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our most faithful attenders, Mary Jackson (née Borland). Mary left school in 1931 and was a founder member of the Old Girls' Club. With her daughter, Anne, she came to every London Lunch until 2007 - apparently she had been hoping to be at this year's event too, but in the end was just too frail. Mary was a very special presence at the Lunches, and will be greatly missed.



## Congratulations

Professor Anne Glover (Class of 1974) was awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours List, for her work in environmental science. Professor Glover, who is the Chief Scientific Advisor for Scotland, lectures at Aberdeen University. She is also seconded to the Scottish Government, to provide independent advice to ministers, to take the lead on co-ordinating science policy cross the Executive and to work closely with the science community. After leaving school Anne became a student of life sciences studying at Edinburgh, Cambridge and Aberdeen. She attributes her success not to her innate genius, but to a determination to keep asking questions! Congratulations Anne, a well deserved honour.

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to Dundee's oldest resident Louisa Mcgregor, Class of 1921, who recently celebrated her 104th birthday. Louisa had a marvellous birthday party with over 60 members of her family. She thinks that having a large family has attributed to her long life. Happy Birthday Louisa.

## High Office

Edward Fenton, Class 1987, has been selected to become Colonel of the Black Watch in 2010. He will be based in Inverness at Fort George.

## Catherine Belton Class of 1939

Catherine has recently been honoured for her work with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for her work as a volunteer for over 50 years.



## In a League of his Own

David K Arnot, Class of 2006, has just been selected for the Scottish Rugby League Squad, taking part in the recent European Cup. David, who currently plays union with the London Scottish swapped to Rugby League 11 months ago and has since played 3 games for Scottish Students in the Home Nations and 4 games for Scotland A. He left school to study Sports and Coaching Science and graduated with a BSc Hons this year. He is the first FP to play Rugby league for Scotland so this is a great achievement.



## Let Them Come Through

Neil Forsyth, Class of 1996, already an accomplished author, has recently been back in Dundee from his home in New York, to launch his first novel, Let Them Come Through. With two other books to his credit, both non fiction, this was a challenging time for Neil. However he need not worry as the book is proving an instant success. To read more about Neil, go to [www.neilforsyth.com](http://www.neilforsyth.com)

## New Chancellor

Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, Class of 1953, was recently installed as the Chancellor of Abertay University, taking over from the Earl of Airlie. He is delighted to renew his links with Dundee where he lived for many years.

## Flying Scotsman

Ian Stevenson, Class of 1993, was selected earlier this year with another 13 young people, to take part in a business boot camp. The first Saltire Fellows, as they are known, were chosen because of their drive, achievement and skills to attend the programme in Boston, USA, at a top business School. The newly formed Saltire Foundation's charitable aim is to help make future corporate leaders for Scotland. Neil is a computer software engineer and believes that experience is not enough to become a top leader but that you need the right mental attitude and tools and the opportunity offered by the Saltire Foundation will provide this.



**Sir Lewis Robertson** 1922 - 2008

Former pupil and HSD Foundation Fellow, Sir Lewis Robertson, died in November 2008. He was one of Scotland's most distinguished businessmen who built his reputation firstly, in the Dundee textile industry and then as a company "doctor" responsible for rescuing several ailing businesses in a manner which won him much acclaim.

He was a believer in committed and efficient management and a pioneer of new technology. He had a meticulous mind and his organisational abilities were legendary. He was once labelled 'the most methodical man in Scotland'. It is said he listed as a recreation "list-making".

Lewis Robertson was born in Dundee and his early education was at the High School. He moved to Ardvreck School, Crieff, then Trinity College Glenalmond and although he had won a place at Cambridge University he was never to take this up and in 1939 volunteered for the Army, spending part of his service at Bletchley Park.

Throughout his career, Sir Lewis held many other directorships and trusteeships, including director of Scottish & Newcastle plc, and Chairman of Girobank Scotland. He was connected at a senior level with ICI, Grampian Holdings, the hotel group Stakis, and many more. He was a former member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and of the restrictive practices Court. He served on the Scottish Advisory Committee of the British Council and was also Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council between 1970-1971.

He was appointed CBE in 1969 and was knighted in 1991.

**Margaret Ross** 1945 - 2009

Margaret Ross left the High School in 1963 at the age of 16 but she remained a strong supporter of the school through membership of the Old Girls' club serving for many years on its committee. She was President of the club in 1995/96.

Her early working life was spent at Hogg & Ross, the Dundee surgical appliance manufacturers and she married its founder, Jack Ross, in 1982.

Margaret was heavily involved in the Girl Guide Association. Starting as a brownie then moving up to the Guides she achieved the award of Queen's Guide. In her late teens she became a Brown Owl and a Guide leader a few years later. She was a district commissioner, divisional commissioner, assistant county commissioner and a few years ago became county president.

**Hylda Christie** 1926 - 2008

Hylda Christie who was in the Class of 1943, died in September 2008. She trained as a teacher at Stobswell College and became a mathematics teacher. She spent the last few years living in Dundee after a lifetime accompanying her husband and former classmate Douglas who worked in Turkey and Hong Kong. They retired to the Phillipines where they spent 9 happy years before Douglas's sudden death in 2000, after which Hylda returned to Dundee.

**Robin Kinmond** 1921 - 2008

Robin Kinmond was proud to be a former pupil of the school. He and his sister Jean both attended during the time they lived in Carnoustie and Dundee.

On leaving, he entered an engineering apprenticeship at a local foundry and also attended evening classes to become a Mechanical Engineer. Once he had gained his qualifications, he joined the Alfred Holt Co (The Blue Funnel Line) and served as an engineer during the 2nd World War, ending his time with the Merchant Navy in 1948.

Robin married his childhood sweetheart Winibelle Farquharson who was also a pupil here and they moved to Cheshire to work and bring up a family. He held various management positions within ICI and remained with that company until his retirement. In his spare time he was a keen golfer and a long-time member of the Sandiway Golf Club.

Robin and Winibelle moved back to Scotland to be near their family.

**Mary Jackson** 1913 - 2009

As Mary Borland, Mary was a pupil between 1919 and 1931. She continued her studies at Edinburgh University gaining an MA in Classics before going on to Edinburgh College of Domestic Science to do a diploma in institutional management. Her employment career took her from Canteen Manager at the Savoy Hotel to working for the Ministry of Food during WWII.

Mary was a founder member of the Old Girls' Club and, with her daughter Anne, she attended every FP lunch held in London until 2007.

**Daniel Wolf** 1977 - 2009-10-26

Daniel left school in 1995 and after gaining MBiochem from Wadham's College, Oxford he went on to gain his PhD in 2003. He met his wife Helen in 1999 and they moved to New York where Daniel initiated post doctoral research into viral silencing at Columbia University. He was highly thought of in his field and was recently offered posts at UCL, Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities. Sadly his plan of returning to Edinburgh was not to be, as he contracted a rare cancer before his plans could be realised.

We also remember	<b>Ian Robertson</b> Class of 1944	<b>Lindsay Burrows</b> Class of 1965	<b>Ronald Irons</b> Class of 1949	<b>Pamela Stewart</b> (nee Wallace) Class of 1967
	<b>Lucy Brunton</b> Class of 2006	<b>Fraser Croal</b> Class of 1951	<b>Yvonne Marshall</b> Class of 1944	<b>Peter Stuart</b> Class of 1968
	<b>Muriel McRae</b> (nee Wilson) Class of 1948	<b>George Drummond</b> Class of 1944	<b>Catherine Poller</b> (nee Morgan) Class of 1938	<b>Betty Williamson</b> Teacher (Spanish) 1964 to 1987
	<b>Jennifer Barnes</b> Class of 1956	<b>John Gibson</b> Class of 1937	<b>Jean Richardson</b> Class of 1943	
		<b>Frazer Gowans</b> Class of 1983		



# Integrated Excellence



**F**irst and foremost we are an academic school. However, in today's climate we will not thrive if that is all we do. This year we are working to develop what I like to describe as the Integrated Curriculum. The Integrated Curriculum goes beyond the purely academic to refer to the systematic development of all that we do at the school, both inside and outwith the classroom.

There is a degree of truth in the words of the American behaviouralist BF Skinner, namely that "Education is what's left when everything learnt at school has been forgotten." Without compromising our high academic standards we wish to nurture pupils who have the mind-set with which they can thrive in the uncertainties of the 21st century. Whilst they need to have the academic rigour to achieve knowledge, they also need the analytical skills to synthesise and prioritise that knowledge. Further, they need the ability to be creative, enterprising and to think critically, alongside a firm ethical and moral foundation as a springboard to taking on the world.

In order to ensure that everyone is able to benefit fully from our education it is important we address in a more structured fashion the different learning styles – or 'multiple intelligences' - of our pupils. Some learn better visually, some verbally, some numerically some kinaesthetically, for example.

All aspects of school life are therefore important in the Integrated Curriculum: sport, music, drama, debating, foreign trips, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh, the Charity Committee etc, etc. Whilst we have always involved the pupils in this range of activities it has largely been voluntary, ad hoc and dependent on the valued enthusiasm and expertise of individual staff members. I therefore wish to develop these activities into a more structured programme for each and every pupil so that he or she leaves the High School with a well-grounded sense of self-respect, physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, secure values and beliefs and ambition. We hope they will be enthusiastic and motivated, determined to succeed, open to new ideas and able to think creatively and independently, to take a lead as citizens both locally and globally.

So - a modest ambition then! I look forward to reporting to you on the progress of this exciting journey in the months and years to come.

**Dr John D Halliday** Rector

Finally we would like to share some excerpts from an article written for the School magazine 75 years ago, by the Rev David M Stalker, in celebration of the opening of the Boys' School 100 years before.

**'These Pillars at the top of Reform Street have stood for a hundred years now and surely their position in that spot is not without its symbolism in the life of Dundee. Round them cluster shrines of Religion and Art, and Seats of Commerce and Industry and Manufacture are within a stones throw of their gates. These Pillars stand for something very real, for they mean the permanence of an unbroken tradition of scholarship and insistence on qualities of mind and character which were never more required than amid the disquiet and unrest of modern life.'**

Plus ça change...

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