

# Etcetera

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The magazine for former pupils and friends of Glasgow Academy and Westbourne School

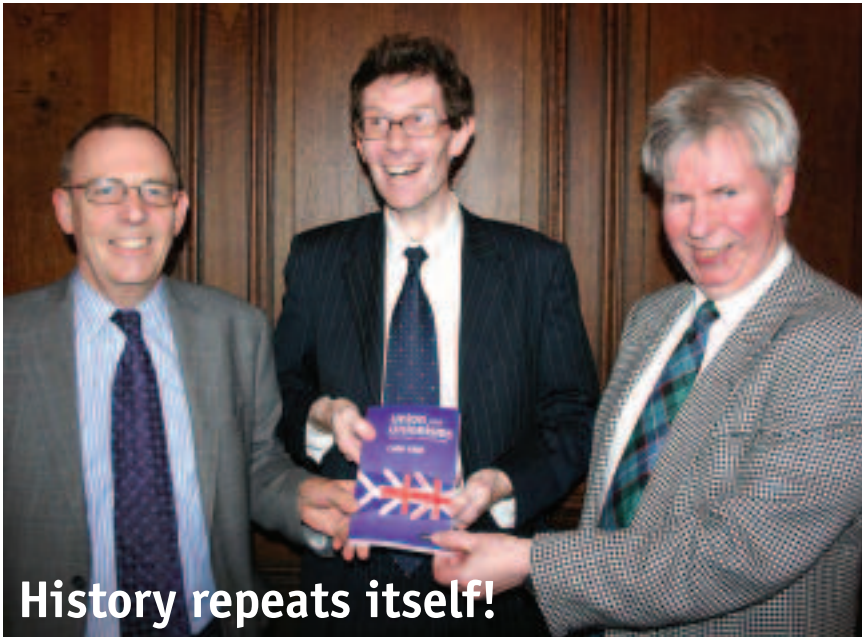


## The Great Escape!

The truth behind the stuff of Hollywood legend

- Westbourne Grand Reunion Dinner, 24 October
- Gordon Mackay Memorial Dinner, 6 June

## Editorial



### History repeats itself!

In December, I was fortunate to attend the launch of Professor Colin Kidd's latest book *Union and Unionisms - Political Thought in Scotland, 1500-2000* at Glasgow University's History Department. As one might have expected, it was an occasion that attracted many of the academic historians who have influenced or been influenced in their turn by Professor Kidd's thinking.

Among the university crowd, two guests of honour stood out. Ronnie Woods and Vic Hadcroft both taught Colin at Glasgow Academy in the late 70s and early 80s. Each, in his own inimitable way, shaped Colin's thinking and helped develop the outstanding mind so familiar to students and readers alike.

Professor Kidd is always keen to acknowledge his debt to his old teachers, something he touches on again in the preface to his new book. This is much more than mere sentiment, as his enduring links with The Academy - as Governor, parent and counsellor to many - prove. Glasgow Academy has helped shape him and he, in turn, has helped shape the school.

Glasgow Academy's recently-published HMI Report is generous in its praise for the standard of education offered both inside and beyond the classroom. This can only increase the demand for places from talented pupils whose parents cannot afford to pay the fees.

As an article in a recent edition of *Etcetera* shows, Colin Kidd has always been a particular supporter of Bursaries and Scholarships - and for one very good reason. It was the generosity of former pupils of the past that allowed him to attend The Academy.

In response to a journalist's query, we recently had a look through the archives to try to establish exactly when Glasgow Academy started to offer Bursaries. It's clear that children of war widows were receiving substantial assistance from the school as early as 1920 - and it's likely that a similar scheme had been in existence for many years before that. Since then, literally hundreds of boys and girls have received help with fees allowing them to have an Academy education.

In another 25 years, I would love to be able to attend the launch of a book written by some brilliant historian, chemist, engineer, sportsperson or medic who was given the chance to develop their latent abilities at Glasgow Academy.

That is, if we still have book launches - or books! - in 2034

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**Do we have your e-mail address?  
It's how we communicate best!**

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## Keeping in touch

The External Relations office is situated in Colebrooke Terrace. Former pupils are always welcome to pop in and have a chat. Just give us a call to arrange a time. Our address is Colebrooke Terrace, Glasgow G12 8HE and you can contact us on 0141 342 5494 or at [exrel@tga.org.uk](mailto:exrel@tga.org.uk)

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E-mail: [ecj@araloon.co.uk](mailto:ecj@araloon.co.uk)

# Our vision: can-do, will-do

Glasgow Academy's recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectors highlighted 'the impact of the Rector's vision and values' as a key strength of the school. Here Peter Brodie articulates his vision for The Academy.

Central to our vision for The Academy is can-do, will-do. We aim to create a spirit of passionate can-do, will-do by encouraging initiative, creativity, responsibility and respect for each other. We do that by nurturing children and by showing that we believe in them and have the highest expectations of them. So they believe in themselves and rise to our expectations. That way they can – and do – achieve things they once never thought possible.

We offer a wealth of challenges and opportunities in sport, music, drama, Outdoor Education, clubs and societies – and we provide the encouragement,

support, role models and advice to help children make a success of them. You want to row for gold medals? You can do it at 7.30 in the morning at The Academy with one of the UK's top coaches. You want to dance? A member of the first UK company to dance in the Kremlin will choreograph you in a school musical. You want to name a peak because you were the first person to climb it? We will take you to Greenland and you can name it Bearsden. You want to perform in New York? 84 pupils are set to do so in 2010 because we now have nearly 500 individual music lessons a week and 400 pupils participating in 20 ensembles.

The first thing I said in assembly to all Academy pupils when I arrived was that it should be them on stage not me. I am passionate about children taking responsibility. That includes them taking assembly, talking about what excites them, and inspiring others to support a charity, take part in some good cause or do something they had never thought of. It is a very special school where I can say to a 15-year-old 'Organise a good musical assembly next week – I leave it to you who or what you choose' and Her Majesty's Inspectorate go away impressed by a beautifully-executed series of performances by children clearly enjoying sharing their talents before

Peter Brodie believes that 'central to education is the recognition of the value – and fun – of engaging in a shared enterprise in a spirit of mutual support, openness and trust'.



the whole school. That is your school. If we trust and demand a lot of children they will endlessly surprise us – and on the rare moments when they let us down, they have the chance to learn most from mistakes. We now have hundreds of posts of responsibility and leadership, from senior pupils helping younger ones to learn to read, to communicate in a foreign language or make a success of chemistry to writing and directing your own play.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. Schools can change children's lives, and inspirational teachers do so by infectious passion for their subject and by commitment to their pupils. They set the highest of challenges and standards, and show children how to attain them, praising both effort and good strategies. They nurture children and ensure that they are always clear on their next steps. So the children see what they can do and are helped to have a plan and vision of themselves doing it. Inspirational teachers switch on children's can-do, will-do mindset: the keenness to learn and the sense of self-efficacy which are so important to success. You can see the connections being made in the classroom, and that is why I cannot envisage appointing a teacher without first watching every interviewee teach a whole lesson.

Our children and teachers need to live out the belief that intelligence and abilities are not fixed, that our brains are constantly building new connections, and that every experience and relationship throughout our lives is an opportunity for learning. What matters is that we persevere. Central to this is recognition of the value – and fun – of engaging in a shared enterprise in a spirit of mutual support, openness and trust.

Education has most impact when it is most realistic. So it makes sense to create opportunities for children to take responsibility for their learning and discover the satisfactions of working with others in enterprises with real impact. Pupil-organised events, pupil-led warm-ups, team games and team activities provide important opportunities to lead or to be valuable team members working for the common good, to develop decision-making skills and to experience the benefits of 'we' rather

than 'I'. Sport, music, history or modern language trips and tours create exciting challenges and develop children's confidence and understanding of the world. Charity fundraising (£35,000 last year), helping less privileged children in the UK or overseas, or working on environmental projects are all valuable activities which also reinforce academic potential.

We have given every Senior School child their own tutor: a teacher who meets with them every day to discuss their progress, share highs and lows and raise aspirations. They can give the

They said it:  
**'Glasgow Academy,  
alma mater of the  
historian Niall  
Ferguson, and one of  
the very best schools  
in the world...'**  
*The Spectator,*  
February 2009

child the encouragement sometimes needed to stand apart from the distractions of the modern world and peer pressure and go for what is best for their future. They look for and nurture effort and talents, and ensure that children are making the most of all the opportunities for support around the school, be they subject clinics, revision sessions or using the open door policy of staff who are ready to see anyone who will benefit from help. They keep parents informed and seek their support whenever appropriate because partnership with parents is central to what we do. They have skilful conversations that encourage engagement with clubs, societies and trips: they know how to charm perhaps reluctant adolescents into activities which, despite initial resistance, they come to love. Sometimes they set this up carefully, getting colleagues on side in advance or priming them with appropriate background and responses. They harness the power of the possible,

firing the child's imagination and visualisation of achievement. And because relationships are central to what we are creating, they stay with them as they move up the school. Every child is now cared for not only by their tutor, but also by their two joint Heads of House and a member of the Senior Leadership Team dedicated to their year group.

G.K. Chesterton defined education as '...the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another'. But you will know that education is also what is left when you have forgotten what has been learnt. If we develop children's enthusiasm for learning and creativity, and their initiative, team work and responsibility, they will appreciate – despite all the pressures of materialism – that the best things in life are not things. For me, that is the ultimate moral purpose of teaching and headship. We have only one chance with the education of our children, so their tomorrow must be our urgency today – in a school filled with laughter and a sense of fun.

We wish our children to leave us as well-rounded, successful and, above all, happy individuals. We want them to have the very best. But we cannot provide that without the support of our former pupils. Please, if you can, help us build the new labs, performance centre/lecture hall and sports facilities we need. Or help a child come to The Academy who could not otherwise do so without your generosity in donating towards a bursary. In gaining a tax break for yourself through charitable giving, you can give our children a future they could not otherwise have.

Excellence is our passion. Our former pupils have the pivotal role in helping us achieve it.

**Peter Brodie**

**There is more about the Rector's vision in his chapter *Lighting fires: can do/will do, the small 'I' and the big 'we'*, printed in *The Head Speaks: Challenges and Visions in Education*, a collection of views from Heads on issues facing schools today, published by the University of Buckingham Press 2008.**

# Recent events and reunions

## Cambridge reunion

Ying Qin (2006) came up with the idea of assembling all the young Academicals currently at Cambridge at a 'formal' (dinner) one evening. And so, last term, a group of nine met up at Trinity College. Here they are pictured in Trinity College bar after the meal.

From back left to front right:

Eliza Grant (first year English, Magdalene), Bo Zheng (fourth year Natural Sciences, Trinity), Tom Sutton (first year Maths, St Johns), Aaron Outhwaite (second year Engineering, Trinity), Alex Jones (third year Natural Sciences, Christs), Alisdair McClymont (second year Engineering, Pembroke) Alison Nimmo (fourth year Philosophy, Newnham), Sarah Wilson (second year Law, Trinity Hall), Ying Qin (third year Natural Sciences, Murray Edwards College)



Ying commented: 'It was great to see and catch up with everyone which is rare at Cambridge with its hectic lifestyle.'



This year's Spring Lunch at New Annesland attracted a record number of former pupils. No fewer than 60 leavers from 1945 onwards enjoyed an excellent lunch at the beginning of March.



Cheers! David Kernohan (1965) and his wife Christine held a wine-tasting evening in the new Prep School hall in February. There is a match made in heaven: Christine is the Chief winemaker while David supervises quality control! You can find out all about their vineyard at [www.gladstone.co.nz](http://www.gladstone.co.nz) The event itself was a great success all round: as a result, Gladstone Wines is a little better-known in this country, and over 70 Academicals and other friends of the school had a very enjoyable evening. Here's to the next time!

# Class of 1998 Reunion

When Lesley Bloomer and I decided to embark on organising our school ten year reunion we were unsure as to the response we might receive. Delight? Apathy? Horror? To test the proverbial waters, we set up a Facebook Group inviting the class of 1998 to join and share with us their thoughts about being asked to return to the old Academy haunt to be reunited with their classmates of yore. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with fifty-seven people joining the group from a possible eighty-four original class members. Encouraged by the feedback, we set about turning our cyber group into a real-life ten year reunion.

Our first port of call was to meet with the Director of External Relations at the Academy, Malcolm McNaught. He reassured us that we would be fully supported by the school in our endeavour to reunite our old classmates but warned that previous years had attempted the same feat and had been disappointed. We convinced ourselves that with military organisation and heavy persuasion our reunion would be a success. With this resolve we turned our attention to the question of venue.

Our first choice was, of course, the Cargill Hall. Unfortunately due to scheduling conflicts this was not to be and we plumped for the close second choice of the Accies Rugby Club. The manager of the club, Kenny Barron assured us that all catering, alcohol and other requests would be taken care of by his team - a huge relief to event-management novices such as ourselves.

On the evening of 20 December 2008, ten years after eighty-four 18-year-olds first spread their wings, Lesley and I waited in nervous anticipation to welcome our old school chums back to the scene of so many famous 'Accies Discos'. Our fears of the evening culminating in a fairly pathetic table for two proved unfounded as we were delighted with the sixty-two person strong turn out. We were even lucky enough to have some of our old

teachers join us for the evening. Special thanks go out to Mr McNaught, Mr Spike, Mr Gray and Mrs McDonald for their support, it was such a pleasure to share the reunion with them. Mr McNaught opened the evening with a heartfelt and nostalgic welcome speech. I took the opportunity to read a letter sent by the late Jamie Black's family wishing us wonderful evening and encouraging us to create more happy memories with old friends. Jamie was much missed.

Thanks to the hard work of Kenny and his team, the meal was fantastic and the club was transformed into a ceilidh in minutes. The latter half of the evening was danced away by some while others chose to prop up the bar and catch up with long-lost pals. Nobody could resist the lure of the time-honoured 'under the arches' tradition! The evening ended all

too quickly and it was with real regret that I watched my former classmates disappear into the night. However, Lesley and I agreed that the night had been a huge success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hazel McNaught for all her hard work and organisation; we are indebted to her. It won't be long before the twentieth reunion and so I am recruiting volunteers now, Hazel? Anyone? Anyone?...

**Anna Pollock (1998)**



## Glasgow Academy IVth Form 1966-67 Class Reunion Dinner

The above event was held at the Glasgow Academical Club, New Anniesland on Friday 27

February 2009. Our speakers were Mr Malcolm McNaught, Director of External Relations at The Glasgow Academy who proposed the toast to the School, and Mr Philip Beattie, former teacher of Modern Languages at Glasgow Academy. Kenneth Russell was Chairman and gave the Reply with the help of the other 20 present!

The following 'boys' were present: Brian Barclay, Mike Belch, Athol Brechin, Alastair Crabb, Lex Dowie, Neil Duncan, Alan Gibson, Alan Lundie, Keith MacLennan, Murray Magowan, Kenneth McCracken, George McLaren, Wallace Mitchell, Douglas Mundie, Derek Neilson, Douglas Robinson, Kenneth Russell, David Stirrat, Ian Veitch, Philip Waine and guest star, Donald Reid (he kindly filled in for a last minute call-off).



Many thanks to the speakers, the organisers and all who attended. Another jovial night was enjoyed by everyone present. Kenneth Russell mentioned that although 21 'boys' were present there was another 22 who said they would like to attend but could not. The next dinner may be the last before we reach that magical age of 60! Given enough notice, would it not be great if everyone could attend then?

A special mention was made about the

sad deaths of Iain (Iggy) MacMillan and Sandy Russell. Both had been regular attenders of the Dinner. They will be much missed.

If you were in the above year and have lost touch, please contact,

xrel@tga.org.uk or  
brian.barclay@btpopenworld.com

We plan to have our next dinner in early 2011.

**George McLaren (1970)**



# ACADEMICAL CLUB ETC

## Accies Rugby

This season started on a really sad note, with the sudden and unexpected death, at the very young age of 39, of Gordon Mackay who had just taken up the post of Head Coach. A tribute to Gordon appeared in the last issue of the *Chronicle*. Gordon's friendship, experience and enthusiasm is greatly missed by all at New Anniesland.

GORDON MACKAY  
MEMORIAL DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY, 6 JUNE, THE  
CARGILL HALL

Tickets £55

Rugby commentator, Andy Nicol, who played with Gordon in Scottish Schools representative rugby, and our own John Beattie (Snr.) are taking part in the evening.

For further information: e-mail:  
stevebegley@begleybrown.co.uk  
Tel: 07990 958161

At the end of Season 2007/8 Gordon Mackay returned to coach at the Club with Donald Reid, a well-known Accies player of the '70s. Together, they were able to turn the team's fortunes around from what had hitherto been a very poor season and saved the Club from possible relegation.

Donald, very ably supported by Chas Afuakwah, Steve Begley and Nigel Campbell, took up the reins and continued as Director of Rugby, implementing the ideas that he and Gordon had planned for the new season. Duncan Beattie also gave much time and effort to source better weight-lifting equipment for the Fitness Gym, with the help of the SRU, and instructed many of the players on improving their upper-body

strength. As a result, the 1st XV performances improved very noticeably and a new mind-set was evident in the players' attitude and performance.

Unfortunately, Club Captain Jamie Doig suffered a serious leg injury in the final pre-season practice match, which was to keep him out for the entire season. However, Richard McKnight, who had just returned to the Club from Hawks, took over the captain's role. He, along with fellow Accies Matt Smith and Stewart Smith, both also newly returned from Hawks, brought invaluable experience, leadership and motivation to the team. This in turn helped attract many new players to New Anniesland, and both the 1st and 2nd XVs have shown the benefits of these additions.

Cruz Kawakameni, (a Cameroonian, previously with Allan Glen's), Jack Walker (an ex-Scotland U17s player from St. Columba's School in Kilmacollm) and Chris Wright (an ex-Heriot's pupil now at University in Glasgow) are three of the players (sadly all forwards!) who have helped ignite our performances since their arrival. Robert Fuller, also a new addition (of the giant variety) to the 2nd XV has shown an admirable commitment with his enthusiastic qualities, and along with players like Max Henderson and 2nd XV team captain Richard Taylor, have helped to create a healthy, happy and successful team... all very necessary and important for the success of the 1st XV.

Fabi Marchetti, Ali McLaren, Chris McAlpine, Ian Corrie and Ben Wilkinson are a number of the 2nd XV players who have broken into the 1st XV and are showing potential.

Whilst promotion was one of Donald Reid's goals for the season, which sadly has not been achieved, the 1st XV, which lies in 4th place in National

league Division 2 has certainly progressed in an impressive way since last season. Thanks are undoubtedly due to Donald and the coaching team for their outstanding contribution to Accies' rugby.

## Sponsors

The section could not operate without the generous support of its major sponsors and of the many Academicals and ex-players who contribute via Alasdair Graham's appeal, by taking advertising boards, by sponsoring a player or through supporting Duncan Beattie's appeal for the Fitness Gym equipment.

## The Rugby Section urgently needs volunteers

in a number of non-onerous and non-time-consuming ways.

If you are willing to assist, please contact either:

**Donald Reid**

at dreid17@hotmail.co.uk  
(Tel) 07595 218 494

or

**Gordon Wilson**

at wilsongb@btinternet.com  
(Tel) 07595 218 497

**Be part of the  
Gate/Hospitality team**

**Be a 'watcher'/representative  
for 2nd XV**

**Help with the Website**

**Help with Fundraising**

**Help with Coaching**

# Academical Dinner

Friday 6 November –  
further details in  
next edition

## Glasgow Accies Ladies Hockey

With the season quickly reaching an end, it seems like we have too many games to play, the weather playing a huge part in the cancellation of a lot of matches!

It has been a great season this year. We have lost some players but new ones have found their way to Accies.

The 2nd XI, having been promoted back in to the Second Division, are sitting second in the league – which is a great achievement in just one year. Here's hoping that can make it to the top!

The 1st XI are sitting top in the First Division and are contemplating joining National 3s next year as they have been placed in the top three for the past three years and feel it's time for more of a challenge! Hopefully this would attract some new players too. The 1sts have also recently made it into the final of the West District Cup, which is held on 9 May at 2.45pm at Clydesdale. All supporters welcome and greatly appreciated!

We entered two indoor teams this year and the 'Accies 2' team have just won the indoor league and are still in the Cup so hopefully they can win the double!

We have also secured sponsorship this year from CJ Lang, a successful catering firm in Dundee. They have kindly sponsored our two goalies which has meant that we have managed to invest in some much needed new kit!

We are always looking to strengthen the club so if anyone is interested in joining the hockey section, please contact Jen Mason at [acciesladies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:acciesladies@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07843 488 526.

**Jen Mason, Club Captain**

## Men's Hockey

The Men's Hockey section have a new website with all the latest club info and goings on. It can be viewed at [www.glasgowacciesmenshc.synthasite.com](http://www.glasgowacciesmenshc.synthasite.com). For further information or if you are interested in joining or sponsoring the team, you can also e-mail [glasgowaccies@hockeymail.com](mailto:glasgowaccies@hockeymail.com)

## Academical Golf Section

The season's fixtures are listed below, in the hope that Academicals of all ages will be encouraged to take part. Please get in touch if you are available to join in on any of the dates or would like further information.

### Contacts

Robin Hopkins (Captain)  
[rhopkinsarchitect@hotmail.com](mailto:rhopkinsarchitect@hotmail.com)  
07909 522121

Gordon Wilson  
[wilsongb@btinternet.com](mailto:wilsongb@btinternet.com)  
07595 218497

Jimmy McCulloch (re Elie)  
[jrm@speirsjeffrey.co.uk](mailto:jrm@speirsjeffrey.co.uk)  
01505 610547

### Matches

Sunday 7 June v Watsonians at Luffness GC

Wednesday 24 June v Glasgow Academy at Killermont

Sunday 13 Sept v Kelvinside Accies at Prestwick GC

### Summer and Autumn Outings

Sunday 14 June to Shiskine GC

Saturday 10 October to The Elie GHC

Both of these outings are arranged with the social aspect very much in mind and we are fortunate that members with holiday homes in Elie and at Blackwaterfoot on Arran, have offered overnight accommodation on the night before each outing. There is therefore a Dinner booked at each venue on those occasions. Informal matches are arranged in the afternoon, preceding the Dinner, for anyone able to arrive early.

# To the beat of 'The Drum'

If a Glasgow Accie called Douglas Smith had ever been the subject of *This Is Your Life* – that could have been some episode! – then the studio would have represented a Who's Who of Scottish Football for, in his own unassuming way, here was a figure as influential to the game in his native land as Jock Stein. Under his guidance and encouragement, a score of young players went on to gain full international caps, while more than 300 of them became professional footballers. Not bad for an ex-pupil of a rugby-playing school!

Not all of them reached the heights of Kenny Dalglish, Asa Hartford or Archie Gemmill after leaving Drumchapel Amateurs – the club Smith founded in 1950 and nurtured until his death in 2004. All, however, agreed that: 'Douglas Smith was a fantastic man'. This was according to none other than Sir Alex Ferguson, who played for 'The Drum', as they were affectionately known throughout Glasgow.

A Cambridge graduate in engineering, Smith was invalided out of the Army in 1949 after being seriously injured during training as an infantry officer and returned to his home near Dumbarton to run the family's successful ship-breaking business. His twin loves of football and the church led to him being invited to manage the Boys' Brigade team in Drumchapel, then a village in the north-west of Glasgow.

Over the next half-century, Smith transformed the local amateur team into one of the most successful youth clubs in Europe, at every age level from under 14 to under 18. 'But Douglas Smith didn't only teach you about football, he also instilled in players a code for life – discipline and sportsmanship, but how to be competitive as well,' said Ferguson. Not a bad mixture for a career in sport!



## Ally McCoist is an Accie - Exclusive!

At the last Rangers Charity Foundation Ball, Alan Lundie (1969) successfully bid in the auction for 'A game on the pitch at Ibrox Stadium'. After two postponements, as a result of Rangers' extended run in Europe last season, the big event finally took place in the evening of Thursday 23 October 2008.

After a stadium tour, the Lundie squad were taken to the home dressing room, presented with their own Rangers strip, and given a pre-match tactical talk.

Thirteen Accies were involved. Alan was the Manager, assisted by Michael Dickson (2007), and the Accie players were Michael Byers (2002), Chris Leggat (1998), Andrew Lundie (2007), Fraser Lundie (1998), Gordon Lundie (2002), Ian MacIntyre (2007), Ruari Owens-Smith (2007), Alister Reid (2002), and Kerr Wright (2007). William Telfer and Iain Williamson were granted Academical status for the game.

Other honorary 'Accies' for the evening were the current Rangers Assistant Manager and Ibrox legend, Ally McCoist, and another former Rangers star Arthur Numan

who were also in the team. Unfortunately on the day of the game another Ibrox Legend, Andy Goram, was ruled out with a knee injury and replaced by his former Rangers understudy Neil Inglis. To round up the big names, Alan Baxter son of the late great Jim Baxter was also in the squad. The opposition consisted of ex-players, coaches, and other involved in the Ibrox football in the community department.

Although Alan's team lost 7-4 on the night, all four goals were scored by Accies, namely Ian MacIntyre, William Telfer, Kerr Wright and Andrew Lundie.

At the end of the match, Arthur Numan presented Fraser Lundie with the 'Man of the Match Trophy' and gave medals to all the players.

In the post-match interview given by Ken Smith of the *Herald Diary*, Andrew Lundie commented: 'To march down the tunnel at Ibrox onto a new pitch, under floodlights, with Ally McCoist and Arthur Numan in your team, Simply the Best booming out on the PA system, to hear your name being announced, and then to score a goal was an unbelievable experience.'

The crowd, made up primarily of relatives and friends, together with players from both teams and the match

officials then enjoyed hospitality and a finger buffet in the Members' Club at Ibrox.

The following charities benefited from the event: The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments  
Cystic Fibrosis Trust  
British Red Cross



Super Ally (or should that be 'Super Accie?') shows the rest how it's done!



13 November 2008

Good morning,

I just wanted to let you know that the Kilts 2 Kenya Africa 3 Peaks Expedition has come to an end. The expedition spanned 20 exhausting days. Thankfully, Ally was able to join us for the second and third legs of our adventure, having recovered from the virus that disabled him in the Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda...

I've posted a diary of our climbs and some photos from the expedition on our website:

[www.kilts2kenya.com](http://www.kilts2kenya.com)

Thank you so much to all of our sponsors and donors for your generous support. I'm leaving to come back to the UK this weekend and will be very sorry to say goodbye to the wonderful kids at Kenya Children's Home. The money that's been donated will be used to ensure that they are housed, clothed and educated and will help create opportunities for them in life. So, on behalf of the kids, huge thanks again to everyone. If you haven't donated yet, there's still time. Our Justgiving web pages are still active and can be accessed through our website above or at the following addresses:

[www.justgiving.com/rickyafrika3peaks](http://www.justgiving.com/rickyafrika3peaks)

[www.justgiving.com/allyafrika3peaks](http://www.justgiving.com/allyafrika3peaks)

Regards,  
Ricky, Ally and Iain

## Burns Supper

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Burns' birth, Mr Ken Barron, The Academy catering manager, organised a Supper in the Pavilion at Anniesland. It proved to be an extremely successful evening and was well supported by over 100 Accies Sport Club members and friends.

Ken and his staff served up a first-class meal, and a 'cast' made up predominantly of Academicals provided some excellent entertainment. Donald Reid, Accies' Director of Rugby, started with the Selkirk Grace, and Alex Dowers very ably and amusingly addressed the Haggis, which, unusually, responded - in very good part - with the assistance

of Club Past President Wallace Mitchell.

This year's Club President Hugh Barrow, without a note in sight, spoke very eloquently, in what everyone present agreed, was one of the finest toasts to The Immortal Memory. In lighter vein, Accies' Rugby Chairman, Gordon Wilson, most humorously toasted the Lassies, and was responded to, very competently and amusingly by the attractive Hazel McNaught, a recent recruit to the Academical ranks. Hazel was Head Girl at the Academy in 2004, went on to Newcastle University to study Law, and for the past year has assisted her father Malcolm in the School External Relations Office. She leaves in June to take up her traineeship with a law firm in Guildford. Hazel is a fine example of an Academy education. The London Section of the Academical Club will undoubtedly be very quickly onto her case! The entertainment

ended with Forbes Dunlop, the GHK Rugby Vice President, who gave an outstanding rendition of Holy Willie's Prayer.

This Burns Night celebration was greatly enjoyed by all present, and the pleasant surroundings of the refurbished Anniesland Clubhouse will undoubtedly attract many more social events in the future.



# We welcome visitors...

Among the many visitors to The Academy over the past few months, have been a number of former School Captains (or Head Boys). It has become something of a tradition that we photograph them with the famous India Trophy – perhaps since so many of them complain that, although it was ‘presented’ to them at Prize Giving, they have never actually been allowed to hold it!

Two much-respected former School Captains who visited us recently were Moreton Black (1939) and Wilf Sinclair (1986). By a strange twist of fate, Moreton and Wilf – although separated by no fewer than 47 years – were consecutive winners of the India Trophy.

Moreton was presented with the India Trophy at the Distribution of Prizes on 29 June 1939. Soon afterwards, he enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders and went off to the great adventure called war where – in 1943 – he was taken prisoner in Sicily and held as a PoW until 1945. The trophy, meanwhile, went off on its own wartime adventure and was incarcerated in its own prison...

The exact reasons why the India Trophy went missing at the beginning



of World War II are unclear, but many believe it had something to do with the fear that this precious silver artefact may itself be ‘enlisted’ to help the war effort. Whatever the reason, the trophy was rediscovered only in 1986. It was hidden in a false wall in the ‘dunny’ in the basement of the Main Building and came to light only during the conversion of the cloakroom areas into offices at the time of the installation of the new library in the Well.

By this time, Moreton had returned to his old school where he had taught modern languages since 1947. By a strange co-incidence, the trophy was unearthed just as Moreton was preparing to retire and – as our photograph shows – the two were reunited for a brief embrace on the front steps of the school.

It has been only slightly more than two decades since Wilf Sinclair first held the India Trophy. He was School Captain in 1986, the same year that Moreton retired. Now a successful businessman, Wilf came in to visit his old school in November.

We have no way of knowing whether the India Trophy was pleased to see these two former winners. We certainly were!



## Ian Spinney - Academy Parent and Academy Governor

Now into his third year as a Governor, Ian Spinney feels he has only just started to make a contribution to the enormously-varied world of The Glasgow Academy. The first year was spent listening, the second year asking questions, and the third year actually doing some work, he says.

Ian chairs the marketing committee and to date he has worked on a review of bursaries, has led an audit of the website and contributes to a wide range of PR and marketing projects. Professionally, Ian runs Spinney & Partners, a specialist business PR consultancy.

Ian is not an Academical – in fact he went to Sedbergh in Northern England – and feels the experience helps him bring a different perspective to the management of the school, observing:

‘The market for an independent education is extremely competitive – parents simply want the best education for their children and are increasingly happy to shop around. The Board of Governors is focused on a continual programme of investment and innovation to ensure The Glasgow Academy remains the market leader across as many areas as possible.’

Ian has two girls at the school – in Transitus and S3 – both of whom he thinks have benefited from the special all-round education provided by The Glasgow Academy.

‘That is one of the school’s most valuable assets and one which we must never overlook,’ he says.



## Grand Reunion Dinner

24 October 2009  
Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel  
7.30pm

A date for your diaries! On Saturday 24 October, we hope that hundreds of Westbourne Girls and staff will meet up for the 'Grand Reunion Dinner' at the Grosvenor.

Tickets are £40. This will include a drinks reception and a three-course meal. The event is not to raise funds in any way; it will be a purely social, fun-filled evening. More details and booking information will be sent out in May. Should you wish to make sure we have your correct contact details, please contact us directly or check your details on the new GA Connected interactive website (see article on page 24).

A number of Westbourne Old Girls have agreed to become year group contacts. Should you wish to become a year group contact or find out who yours is, please get in touch with the External Relations office ([exrel@tga.org.uk](mailto:exrel@tga.org.uk) or 0141 342 5494)

Westbourne memorabilia will be on display on the night. If you would like to lend or donate any photos, yearbooks, pieces of uniform (or even hockey sticks!) for the display, please let us know.

Look out for the Westbourne Grand Reunion Dinner invitation letter - which will arrive by post in May - and for more information in the July edition of *Etcetera*.



Some of the Westbourne Reunion planning committee ('watched over' by a portrait of Mrs Henderson, Westbourne Headmistress 1936-64)

### The Westbourne Grand Reunion Dinner Committee

Back row: Carole (Day) Hill (1974); Christine (Gemmell) Abercrombie (1983) and Marion (Willies) Brodie (1980)  
Seated: RT Murphy (1972-93, Deputy Head 1985-93); EK Henderson (Headmistress 1970-88) and Elaine (Hall) Horner (1970)

Also on the committee are:  
Rachel Teggart (1961); Hilary (Ramsay) Grierson (1978); Amy Primrose (1990) and Claire (Jones) Kember (1994)

## Marriages

**Mindelle Stern** (Westbourne 1993, TGA 1994) to **James Greenhill** (1989)

James and Mindelle were married in Garnethill Synagogue Glasgow on 12 November 2006. Between them they now have two daughters, Kimberly and Ariella.

**Zoe Wise** (1995)

To David Docherty. Their wedding



## Announcements

### Births

**Tanya Fraser** (1994)

On 22 October 2008 to Ruairidh and Tanya Dunford (nee Fraser) a daughter, Willow Freya Fraser.

**Sarah Walls** (1981)

To Nicky and Sarah Finnieston (nee Walls) a daughter, Aoife Maria, on 28 December 2008.

**Rowan Bruce** (1985)

To the late Bryce McCall-Smith and Rowan (nee Bruce) a son, Bryce Roderick. A brother for Struan and Drew.

was last summer in Thailand on a beautiful, white sandy beach in Koh Samui. Zoe's mum, Sheila Wise, is also a former pupil of Westbourne, as is Evette Milne, nee Boni (1995) who was Zoe's bridesmaid. After spending many years in Australia, Zoe and David are now living in Dubai and Zoe is working as a chartered accountant.

## Death

**Victoria Lucy Merrills** (1989) sadly passed away on 27 May 2005. A full tribute will appear in the summer edition of *Etcetera*.

## Other news

**Donna Logan**, now Smith (1986)

In the time since I have left Westbourne, I have travelled across the UK and finally returned to Inverness three years ago. Our daughter, Abi, was born at the Southern General Hospital on 20 December 2003, and Neil and I married on 20 May 2006. Currently working as Directorate General Manager for Surgery and Anaesthetics at Raigmore Hospital.

donna.smith4@nhs.net

**Evette Boni**, now Milne (1995)

I have been temporarily promoted to Acting Faculty Head of Science at the Vale of Leven Academy: what a steep learning curve this is!

**Nicole Brannan**, now Campbell (1991)

I have been prompted by my best friend Carla Bankhead (nee Boni) to get in touch as I have seen the school

mag no 6 and, well, here's the thing, I remember it very clearly and everyone in it. 'Oh no!', say the culprits in the Westbourne School Dance picture! The funny thing is it was my daughter Erin who recognised me in *Etcetera* when it arrived at my parents' house and when she asked her granddad if it was mummy in THAT PICTURE he of course said no: obviously he doesn't remember the good old days and the feisty girls of the Westbourne 5th years. (Thank God for that!) Anyway, I will start at the back and work from left to right (maiden names of course). I am first left with black dress (Nicole Brannan) then Katy Luffingham then first purple dress is Lorraine Dinardo followed by Christina Chung. Carolyn Morgan is the blonde with her then boyfriend Craig Morrison (former Glasgow Academy boy) and last but not least the lovely Sarah (can't remember her second name, sorry). It was great to see the old picture and know when my much-loved daughter asks what was it like in 'my day' I don't need to panic as I can show her, and in colour, what my friends and I were really like. If anything it was certainly a laugh and good to look back!

**Hilary Bennett**, now Murgatroyd (1988)

I left Westbourne in 1988 to study Journalism at Napier University. After graduating I initially worked in newspapers but later moved into media relations. In 2001 I moved to Reading to work for my current employers, Thames Water, which is the UK's largest water company.



**Hilary Bennet, now Murgatroyd**

After six years in the press office, I'd had enough of dealing with egotistical reporters and switched to a political relations role, which I love, but it is extremely challenging since we have a number of high-profile political figures in our region including a certain Mr Cameron and some blonde boy called Boris who is the new Mayor of London! My area also covers Surrey which is a very deep shade of blue and as such means I also have half the Shadow Cabinet to contend with. This all means I spend an inordinate amount of my time on the M4/M25 or on the Tube to Westminster, but – despite the long hours – the job has been extremely rewarding and I have met some extremely interesting and charismatic figures along the way.

Not so rewarding were the dark days of 2006. I was in the press office when the company's reputation was at an all time low – a hosepipe ban, a very leaky water supply network in London and record profits did not make for happy customers or journalists! I have also had the privilege of taking camera crews down into London's sewers on many an occasion – and even let them out again!

I met my husband, Phil (in Milton Keynes of all places) and after marrying him at Park Circus, Glasgow at the beginning of 2006 – Lucy Morton (nee Primrose) did my make up – I subsequently inherited this fantastic new surname and two step sons, Daniel (16) and Thomas (15).

**That Picture!**



## New York Marathon Corner



**Colin Tennant, Stuart Low, Scott Chassels, Andy McGeoch, Fraser Lundie** (all 1998)

We're just waking up in NYC after the marathon every body a bit sore. All completed with no major casualties. Colin Tennant, Fraser Lundie, Jamie Doig, the late Jamie Black and myself ran the NYC marathon in 2002, so we were running this year as a tribute to Jamie with the addition of Stuart Low and Scott Chassels. Jamie Doig (Captain of Accies Rugby Team) tore his ACL first game of the season so could not run. Colin Tennant now lives in Seattle and has joined a running club so he was the big surprise - going from 4:42 in 2002 to 3:32. Stuart was 9 minutes ahead of Colin at one point, but was passed at mile 22 where he was suffering the effects of his early fast pace. Scott, Fraser and I probably could have trained a bit more but all ground out sub 5 hours. In 2002, Fraser and myself both ran slower: 4:58 and 4:59 versus 4:50 and 4:51 this time. The results: Colin Tennant 3:32; Stuart Low 3:36; Scott Chassels 4:47; Andy McGeoch 4:50; Fraser Lundie 4:51

**Andy McGeoch (1998)**

**Adrian R Loudon (1988)**

Don't know if it is worth printing, but I completed the New York Marathon last November in 4hrs 2mins and raised over £3000 for Children with leukaemia. I am running the Barcelona Marathon this Sunday and London marathon at the end of April. Once I run under the four hour mark,

I will be hanging up my trainers. I am also part of a team that is going to run the Caledonian Challenge in June raising money for local Scottish charities.

**Stuart Storr (1992)**

I finished all 26.2 miles of the New York marathon (albeit slowly) with a time of 05:43:10 and then walked 40 blocks home as, typically, there were no taxis around or willing to stop for a dishevelled sweaty runner! Our fundraising total is still rising, but at last count we were at almost £14,000 for the Marie Curie Big Build Appeal. A big thanks to everyone who donated.

We are now eyeing The Las Vegas Marathon for 2009, whilst my oldest son Jack is, I believe, getting into the spirit of things this coming Friday with a sponsored Jog round Dairsie.



**Colin Atkinson (1957)**, current Chair of the Glasgow Academical Sports Club was appointed Chairman of the Glasgow Sports Council in Aug 2007. That is a big job and quite an honour!

**Laura Bartlett (2006)**

Laura Bartlett - whose success in Beijing we celebrated in the last edition - has been in the news again. In January she set up the extra-time golden goal that assured the British women's hockey team of victory over their hosts in the final of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival held in Sydney. The British girls came back twice in the final before snatching the Gold Medal in the sixth minute of extra time.

**Rachel Lawrence (2005)**

Rachel, who left The Academy in 2004 to train as a ballet dancer in London, has just been offered a prized contract with the ballet company in Lucerne, Switzerland (Tanz Luzerner Theater). She has been performing in Geneva with Ballet Junior de Geneve since graduating from Central School of Ballet in 2007. This is an exciting new step for her, as the company has a new female director (Kathleen McNurney) who is recreating the company and is personally selecting a group of dancers that she feels will work well with her.

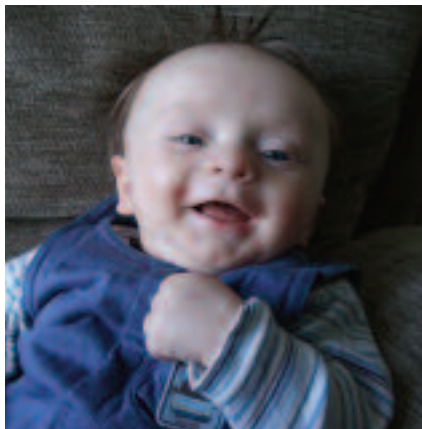
### Don't get out much...

Hi Hazel,  
Thanks for getting in touch. Unfortunately I don't have anything of any real interest to report. Would obviously love to tell you that I was involved in a recent plot to overthrow Robert Mugabe or that I've founded a new religion-based on geometry and the migratory patterns of the North African swallow but alas neither would be true.

Should I finally manage to get my squirrel circus up and running you'll be the first to know. Please pass my best on to your dad.

**Andy Ferguson (1998)**

# Announcements



Just like dad - Matthew Alexander Jamieson

## Births

### Scott Jamieson (2002)

Scott and Judith Jamieson are delighted to announce the birth of their first child Matthew Alexander Jamieson (pictured). Born on 12 October 2008 in Ninewells Hospital, he was a mere 9lb 6oz. Since graduation, Scott has completed his junior doctor training and is about to start his General Duties Medical Officer time with the Royal Navy.

### Robbie Low (1993)

Tanja and I are overjoyed to welcome our adopted new-born son, Myles Stephen Bain Low, to the world! Giving very little notice to his parents, Myles arrived on Wednesday, February 11 at 4:39pm, at a very healthy 8 lbs 2oz and 22½ inches long! He is just a beautiful little boy and we can not express how happy we were to meet him and now have him home with us in Boston.

### Happy sleeper! - Myles Stephen Bain Low



### Calum McKnight (1993)

My wife Nicole gave birth to our second child, Anna, on 25 November 2008. She is a little sister to our son Tom.

### James M O Robertson (left 1987 class of 1993)

To James and Rachael a son, Phoenix James Ogilvie Robertson, on 15 March 2007

**Stuart Wilson (1995)** Stuart and his wife Caroline had a lovely baby daughter, Abigail Olivia, on 20 May 2008.

## Marriages

### Ronnie Douglas (1953)

At St. Mary's Church, Datchet, Berks, by Rev. Peter Wyard, on 13 December 2008, Dr. Ronald NC Douglas, Newlands, Glasgow, to Mrs Diana Yule [Masters] of Datchet and Auckland, NZ.

### James Greenhill (1989) to Mindelle (nee Stern) (TGA 1994, Westbourne 1993)

James and Mindelle were married in Garnethill Synagogue Glasgow on 12 November 2006. Between them they now have two daughters, Kimberly and Ariella.

Ian A G McAslan and Emma Minshull

Rebecca Hochfield shares her wedding day with lots of Glasgow Academy former pupils

### Rebecca Hochfield (2002)

Rebecca married James Ramsay on 14 February 2009 at Blair Castle, Perthshire.

### Iain Le May (1953)

Married Elisabeth Deckker at Lochgilphead, Argyll, 29 July 2008. Iain is also to be congratulated on having been elected as a Foreign Member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, May 2008, as well as having been appointed to the Board of Directors of FESI Ltd, the UK Forum for Engineering Structural Integrity, January 2009.

### Ian A G McAslan (1992)

On 29 November 2008 to Emma Minshull at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh.





(Top left pic) Just married: David and Ruth McNaught

(Top right pic) Gordon Ross and Judith Harris tie the knot

(Bottom left pic) Gary and Fiona Nicholson - 'Hoping to start a family... maybe!'

**David McNaught** (2002)

To Ruth Morrison on 27 December 2008 at Cathcart Trinity Church thereafter at St Andrew's in the Square. David is currently working for Fraser Nash as a consultant engineer, and Ruth is a trainee lawyer with Burness in their Glasgow office.

**Gary Nicholson** (1995)

I got married on 10 January 2009 to Fiona Menzies, a haematologist. We met at medical school in Aberdeen. We'd been together for six years before getting engaged in Florence in June 2008. The wedding took place in Alloway Parish Church with the reception at the Brig O'Doon hotel, Alloway. Best man was David

Donaldson, also from Glasgow Academy. It is the same date as my parents' anniversary. Fiona is working in the West of Scotland. I'm taking time out of surgical training just now to do an MD. I go back to surgical training in the West of Scotland in August. Am still playing West of Scotland league squash. Fiona plays netball. Hoping to start a family... maybe.

**Alex P O Robertson** (left 1988 class of 1995)

Married Katharine Lindsell in London on 15 September 2007

**Gordon Ross** (1996) and **Judith Harris** (1996)

Gordon and Judith got married on Saturday 18 October 2008 in Milngavie. An excellent day had by all with plenty of Accies present. Gordon Ross is a Chartered Surveyor with Doig and Smith and Judith is a Respiratory Nurse Specialist at Gartnavel General Hospital.

**Willie Smith** (1968)

I got married (again) on 20 September to Susan Austin. Between us we have five grown-up children - 3 boys and 2 girls. We were married at Portincaple on the shores of Loch Long. Meantime I work in the Offshore Oil Industry as a Project Manager - currently assigned to a development in the Black Sea.

**Murray Wade** (2000) and **Emma Harris** (1998)

Murray and Emma tied the knot on 2 September 2006. Emma is a lawyer working in Glasgow and Murray is a trainee accountant.

## Deaths

Readers are most welcome to contribute obituaries for publication. We carry no 'official' obituaries in *Etcetera*, only the comments and recollections of members of the family, friends and colleagues.

### Angus Black (1936)

On 2 February 2009. A friend described him as 'a truly nice man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him'.

### James Fleming (1934)

On 20 December 2008. Jim was a well-respected former Elder of Campsie Parish Church, Lennoxton where he worshipped for nearly half a century. He was sustained to the end by his faith in God and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Jennifer and his sons Martin and Patrick.

### Hamish Scott Hunt Inglis (1944)

Hamish went to Glasgow Academy with his latter years at school, like those of many men of his generation, being overshadowed by the war. However he said his first brush with the war came early when a parachute mine from a German bomber landed near the family home and blew him off the toilet while he read his *Beano*! He joined the Highland Light Infantry after school and went to Palestine with his class mate, fellow Academical and lifelong friend, Tommy Caldwell. On returning to Glasgow, Hamish did his MA at Glasgow University and worked as a Principal Teacher of History after gaining a BA Hons at Cambridge. His formula for a cheese and wine (4lbs of cheese, 4 packets of crisps and 40 bottles of wine) is still remembered and in use at many schools today! He leaves behind his sons Craig and Scott, and his two dear grandchildren.

### Geoffrey Jarvis (1946)

Geoffrey Jarvis, distinguished Glasgow architect, conservationist, campaigner and, above all, family man, has died from prostate cancer, aged 81. One of his lifelong friends described him as 'a real Glaswegian and a great Academical'. Geoffrey died peacefully at home on February 10 in the company of his wife Rosalind and children, Michael, Lolo, Grahame and Jeeka. He is also survived by his brothers, John and Michael.

### Ronald A Mitchell (1939)

On 13 December 2007, peacefully at home.

## Douglas Scott

13 May 1911 - 10 November 2008

Douglas was a quiet and charming outdoor person - a skilled traveller, mountaineer, photographer, ornithologist, canoeist and very good company. He died peacefully in his 97th year.

One of his chief recollections of The Academy between 1919 and 1928, which he often quoted to his wife, was the inspiration provided by Dr Temple. After school, Douglas worked in the design room of Templeton's Carpet Manufacturing Company but what really determined the pattern of his life was his first sight of the snow-covered Campsies from the top deck of a tram car. In the fullness of time the mountains brought him the companionship of Scotland's foremost mountaineers of the 30s and 40s - including the author WH Murray, another Academical.

Towards the end of his 1939-45 army service in India, he spent a period of leave on a solo expedition and climbing in the remote Garhwal region of the Indian Himalaya. After demobilisation, his cherished ambition was to return to these impressive mountains and this goal he achieved by initiating the Scottish Himalayan Expedition of 1950. Douglas was the last surviving team member, being pre-



deceased by WH Murray, Tom Weir and Tom McKinnon.

This led to further pioneering expeditions: North Norway, Nepal, Morocco, Kurdistan, Greenland (mostly with Tom Weir) and Kenya (with William Speirs and Charles Warren). But Scotland's countryside and mountains were his first love and with such universal experience he was made an Honorary Vice-President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

In 1967 he married Audrey (Hughes) a gifted cellist who similarly enjoyed the outdoors. Together they continued to travel and enjoy many canoeing and skiing expeditions. Douglas did not write much about his travels, but used his artistry with the camera to capture, with sensitivity, the colour and forms of the land, flowers and wildlife. In particular his knowledge of the birds of these many countries was unrivalled.

**W Allan McNicol**

## Dr Alan J Weir

8 February 1927 - 24 December 2008

Alan attended the Glasgow Academy from 1938 to 1945 and won a Mathematics Exhibition to Jesus College. He stayed on at Cambridge as a postgraduate student and obtained his doctorate in 1953. He was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship to Princeton University, spent two years there and - later - a year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A happy outcome of these visits to the States was his meeting with Margaret Miller, their marriage in 1956 and, in the course of time, four sons and nine grandchildren.

After a period at Queen Mary College, Alan spent most of his working life at the University of Sussex as Reader in Mathematics and Education. A mathematician with wide scholarly interests, he wrote three

widely-read textbooks: *Linear Geometry* with Karl Gruenberg; a major revision of *Group Theory* with Walter Ledermann; and two volumes on *Lebesgue Integration and Measure*, a set book in universities around the world. Alan was an exceptionally gifted lecturer, going to great lengths to present a subject in the most attractive and lucid manner possible. He will be remembered by generations of staff, students and trainee teachers of mathematics at Sussex schools. After Alan moved to Vardean in the 1980s, he was appointed Visiting Reader in Mathematics at the University of Sussex and, on his retirement in 1992, Emeritus Reader.

Alan will be remembered as a man of great integrity, who combined personal charm and gaiety of manner with a seriousness of purpose in everything he did.

**Professor Peter Bushell**

## Moving up, moving on...

**Niall Ferguson** (1981)

After five years shuttling between his home in Oxfordshire and Harvard where he has a professorship, Niall Ferguson, the historian, has decided that there is more to life than collecting AirMiles. He is currently in negotiations to spend 2010/11 as a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics.

'It's not yet a done deal, but there are various reasons for my wanting to do this, not least my eagerness to advance the writing of the biography that I am doing of Dr Henry Kissinger. The LSE's Cold War Studies Centre has much to recommend it as a base for that work,' he told the Telegraph.

**Dr A J MacRobert** (1973)

Has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Sandy is the Reader in Photochemistry and Photobiology in University College London and is based in the National Medical Laser Centre.

*Etcetera* readers may be interested to learn that **Revd Bruce H Sinclair** (1993) was ordained and inducted to Overtown Parish Church on 21 January 2009. Bruce worked in the Church of Scotland offices and for the Iona Community before studying for the ministry.

**Sheriff Principal Brian A Lockhart**

(1960) has been appointed a Temporary High Court Judge - in addition to his duties as Sheriff principal. He will sit in the Criminal Appeal Court in Edinburgh. The appointment is unique in Scottish Legal history in that it is the first time a Solicitor has been created a Judge. The main difference in the Appeal Court is that he will sit as one of a bench of three Judges and consequently may not get his own way for a change!

**Lorna Harris** (2000) is now a psychiatrist, working and living in Edinburgh.

**Graeme Laird** (1964)

I was appointed Senior Vice-President of Lanson Place Hospitality Management, a Hong Kong-based operator of boutique hotels and

serviced residences in Asia. My assignment is to manage the serviced residences as well as expand the company as we are aiming at listing it on the Hong Kong Exchange in 3 or 4 years' time. I went to the Academy from 1951 to 1964 after which I went to the University of Strathclyde to study hotel management at the Scottish Hotel School and then got my MBA in 1969 from Michigan State University.

**Alan Jope** (1981)

The Jopes (Alan, Rosie, Amy, 14, Cameron, 12, and Angus, 10) are moving from New York to Shanghai this summer where I will take over as Chairman of Unilever Greater China.

**Robin McClure** (1987)

For myself, the change is my family and I will be moving in May to Houston, USA from Indonesia where we have been based for the past five years. This follows my promotion to be Global Marketing Director for Clariant's Chemical Management Solutions Business Unit, which covers the company's business in Oil and Gas, Refinery and Mining.

**Paola Fallone** (former staff)

I started a new job in August at Dundee University lecturing in Music in Primary Education, and have recently been promoted to the senior management team of the Post Graduate course, as School Experience Convenor.

### Congratulations to...

**Allan Alstead** (1954)

Former soldier and tireless volunteer Allan Alstead has been awarded the highest honour awarded by the charity Fields in Trust. Brigadier Alstead CBE, who served with the King's Own Scottish Borderers, was presented with the President's Certificate by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at a reception at Buckingham Palace in October. (*Allan was previously made a CBE in recognition of his role in organising international treaties between Britain, Belgium, the United States, France, the Netherlands and Germany.*)

## Former Head Girl climbs Kilimanjaro for kids

Last May I was asked if I would organise a student expedition for St Andrews University to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for the charity Childreach International. I accepted, and in September I got a team together and we now have 38 of us going on the trip.

The aim of our expedition is to raise money and awareness for Childreach International - a child-centred development charity which strives to find new and innovative ways of tackling child poverty at the grass-roots level. It works in many places around the world, supporting communities and providing them with resources they need to give their children a brighter future. I was so impressed and inspired when I met the founders of the charity because they really do care about what they are doing and put 100 per cent effort into each of their projects. It is a charity that really listens to what people need and does its best to provide sustainable solutions.

Our team aims to raise over £40,000 for Childreach which will go towards sanitation projects in Tanzania. So far we have raised over £18,000 and we are so pleased with that, but know that we still have a long way to go. Of course on top of this fundraising target is the cost of the trip for each individual, so we really have set ourselves high goals!

Then there is the challenge of the mountain! Getting to the top of the highest mountain in Africa is no easy task and it will test the whole team in many different ways. The team is of mixed ability and experience which is fantastic as it gives those who have travelled or climbed before the opportunity to share their enthusiasm with those who have not had the chance. I am incredibly excited about the expedition. It will be a life-changing experience for us and for the children we are able to help. If anyone would like to donate to the charity it would be greatly appreciated and I'll keep you up to date with how our planning and fundraising is going!

To donate please go to [www.justgiving.com/standrewsclimbskilimanjaro](http://www.justgiving.com/standrewsclimbskilimanjaro).

**Shona Ambrose** (2006)

# It's amazing what you remember!

**I**n 1949, for my 21st birthday, my parents presented me with a 'G' Model 350cc Royal Enfield motor cycle. I greatly enjoyed the use of this machine until in 1952 I spotted a notice pinned to the notice board of the Glasgow University Union. It read: 'FOR SALE 1925 Bullnosed Morris Cowley in running order £25'. The notice gave the address of a Mossspark Garage.

I went to see the car. It started with first press of the starter button. I fell in love immediately and bought the car there and then! To my father's horror, I sold the Royal Enfield and drove the old Morris all around Britain in the next five years.

At Glasgow University, a fellow student, Andrew Auld, was very taken by my old Morris, and soon Andrew got word of a Mrs Stephenson who had for sale a 1926 Morris Oxford Tourer in Brodick, Arran. During the following Christmas holidays, between Christmas and New Year, Andrew and I took the steamer from Ardrossan to Brodick. The car was in the garage of a private house in the hill behind Brodick. Mr Stephenson, the owner had put the car up on blocks in 1939 during the war, because of petrol rationing.

Andrew and I found the car buried under a pile of accumulated rubbish in the garage. Mr Stephenson had died after the war and his widow wanted the

car removed. All morning Andrew and I struggled to reclaim the old Morris. The garage was down a slope behind the house which connected with the back road. Feverishly we worked to prepare the car for the voyage to Ardrossan.

Luck was with us. A farmer on a tractor drove by and agreed to tow the Morris up to the back road. We inflated the tyres, towed the car backwards to the road and our trusty farmer towed the old Morris Oxford down to the pier.

The skipper of the steamer took one look and said, 'I'm no' havin' that auld wreck on ma boat!' We pleaded with the first mate. He told our story to the Captain and he reluctantly agreed. The car was hoisted aboard behind the funnel, and after the elapse of 26 years the old car sailed back to the mainland.

Andrew worked on the car and restored and repainted it to almost new condition. The thrill we experienced driving the two old cars together on the road is hard now to believe, but we did!

Nearing our final examinations Andrew and I did our obstetrical training at Airthrey Castle near Stirling. Airthrey had been converted to a Maternity Hospital. Andrew and I had to deliver a set number of babies, experience antenatal care and postnatal care. We found it a wonderful and fulfilling exercise. We were supposed to stay in the hospital, but if all was quiet we would sneak off in our two Morrises, our Nickel radiators ashine, and head for the Golden Lion Hotel in King Street, Stirling. There we would quaff Carlsberg Lager at 3/6d a bottle, smoking black Balkan Sobranie cigarettes with gold tips! Ach, we wiz the boyz. Golden days, never to be repeated!

Andrew became an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Scotland, and I a General Practitioner in Victoria, Australia.

All this was triggered off in my memory by the paintings of Arran in my copy of Glasgow Academy's 2009 Calendar.

**John M. Crombie 1946**



*Washing line, High Corrie* by Robyn Kennedy (age 15) - November in the Glasgow Academy Art Calendar, 2009

# The Great Escape

**The *Chronicle* of December 1945 introduced Jack Harrison in this rather low-key fashion: 'We congratulate Mr Foster very heartily on his well-earned promotion. In his place we welcome Mr JAT Harrison to the classical staff.'**

**F**rom that description, few would suspect the real story that lay behind Jack Harrison's arrival at Glasgow Academy - a story that was later made into a feature film starring the likes of Richard Attenborough and Steve McQueen.

In the comfort of his room in Erskine Hospital, the 96-year-old Jack Harrison recounts some of the story that the *Chronicle* of December 1945 failed to tell...

Let's begin Jack's story in 1942 when he was a flight lieutenant in the RAF flying Venturas. On 6 November, Jack's aircraft was involved in an air raid against enemy shipping in Holland. On the way to the target, they came under flak attack from German anti-aircraft batteries.

'The Ventura was flying so low that most of the enemy fire went above it. However, the upper gunner's plastic canopy was damaged by the ack ack and the gunner received injuries to his face,' remembers Jack. 'Bill, the gunner in the lower turret, offered to change places with him so that his wounds could be attended to.'

Ironically his place of refuge cost the upper gunner his life as the plane was so badly damaged that it crashed belly-down in Holland's Zuider Zee destroying the lower turret and taking the life of the young gunner with it. Amazingly, however, Jack, Bill and the other crew member escaped without a scratch.

That was as far as their luck held as Jack and his companions were immediately captured by the Germans

and taken to Stalag Luft III Prisoner of War camp in Upper Silesia, far into the German hinterland, close to the Polish border.

Their incarceration in fairly Spartan conditions far from home did not quench the men's fighting spirit and they spent most of the captive hours planning ways in which they might escape. The would-be escapees constructed a number of escape tunnels using everyday materials over the painstaking course of a full year.

Jack explains how it was decided who should be first to attempt an escape, 'A merit system existed whereby you received a place in the queue to escape through the tunnel. This was judged on the amount of work put in on escape activities, usefulness to the war effort and drawing lots. I learned German in captivity and sat my RSA certificate, so I had a fairly high place on the list, at number 96.'

On the night of March 24 1944, potential escapees began to crawl through the narrow tunnel, hampered by their kits and nursing the knowledge that they could be shot for attempting to escape.

Number 96 in the queue had borrowed a South African officer's greatcoat, removed the brass buttons and was preparing to masquerade as a Hungarian electrician.

'I didn't know very much about Hungary or electricity, Jack confesses, 'but I had a very fine forged identity card - I worked for Siemens and my name was Alexander Ragenyi. I found his name in a Latin newspaper which I had obtained.'

A local power cut added to the difficulties for the escapees, but eighty-one of them had made their way down the tunnel before the Germans realised that something was seriously amiss. Just as Jack was about to go down into the tunnel, the guards closed it down and captured five of the escapees.

Only three of the 81 eventually made it back to Britain; the rest were captured at various points in Germany. In a sickening act of revenge, 50 of Jack's recaptured colleagues were rounded up by the Gestapo and shot.

Jack spent the rest of the war in the camp, something about which he expresses mixed emotions: 'If I had been higher up the queue, I would have got out too - but I may well have paid for it with my life.'

Towards the end of the war the Germans, anxious to avoid capture by the advancing Russians, forced the camp's prisoners to march 85 miles in a January blizzard. The conditions were horrendous and there were several fatalities along the way.

Along with his colleagues, Jack was eventually liberated at Lubeck in the north-west of Germany and he returned to Glasgow three days after VE day when he was reunited with his wife.

By September he was teaching Latin at Glasgow Academy, his past apparently a forgotten memory. However, over 60 years later some of the scars still remain: 'I still find difficulty in liking Germans,' he says. 'I never want to go back there. Two and a half years was enough!'

In recent years, Jack has written an account of his war experiences - although this has never been published. Below is an excerpt from the chapter in which the inmates of Stalag Luft III were preparing for the Great Escape by means of the tunnel code-named 'Harry'.



Jack Harrison, right, with the other members of the self-styled 'Pewit Patrol' inside Stalag Luft III before the escape

# ESCAPE!

Sagan was a little town on the main line between Berlin and Breslau and roughly equidistant from each of these cities and on the main railway line between the two. Now considered – somewhat flatteringly – as a German speaker, I proposed to pose as a foreign worker – which would account for my lapses in grammar and pronunciation. My nationality was Hungarian, and my name was Alexander Regenyi, which I had borrowed from the editor of a Latin newspaper for schools published in Buda-Pest to which I had long been a subscriber. I was an electrical engineer of some kind employed by Siemens. The fact that I knew nothing about Hungarian and precious little about electricity did not greatly matter, for it was obvious that if I was picked up, my thin cover story would never survive serious interrogation. I was supposed to be travelling on business

from Sagan to Siemens' Berlin offices, and papers authorising the journey were supplied by the forgery workshop, along with an identity card in my assumed name and I don't think that in the midst of all this activity any *kreiegie* was ever caught red-handed, though there were many narrow shaves.

We used to talk about 'stupid' goons, but in fact they were far from stupid, particularly *Unteroffizier* Glemnitz and his second-in-command 'Rubberneck'. But the German military mind demands that everything be done systematically (*Alles in Ordnung*) and their actions were usually predictable. They knew that there was tunnelling going on, for occasionally they would find quite considerable quantities of sand when dispersal wasn't keeping up with digging; unless perhaps they thought

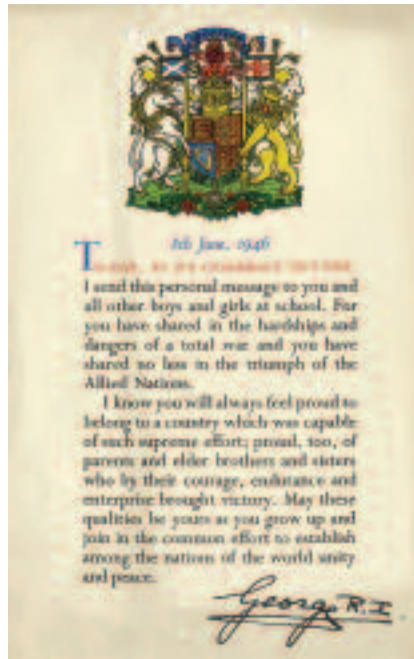
we were having them on. And they must have noticed that bedboards were disappearing to the extent that most of our bunks were down to two or three boards, and some *kriegies* were resorting to making hammocks out of the string from Red Cross parcels, unless they thought we were burning them to cook or to keep warm! I think the likeliest explanation is that, in spite of all their countermeasures, they were losing the battle of wits with the prisoners and could not afford to admit the fact to higher authority. People got sent to the eastern front for less!

No praise can be too high for the work of the Polish officers in devising and constructing the hatches of the three tunnels. These were virtually invisible. Even the one that gave entry to 'Poor Tom' was only found accidentally by one of the 'ferrets' at the end of a day-long search of Block 123. Yet they could be opened up in seconds and replaced invisibly, as they sometimes had to be, quicker than any posse of ferrets could reach their suspected location. Actually a greater danger was that the tailors, forgers, map-makers etc. who might have to be working near windows to make the best of the winter daylight could be spotted by a prowling ferret, for – as 'Harry' got nearer its destination – the pressure on these departments to turn out escape clothing, equipment and documents also increased.

In all, about half the population of the compound, say 500 men now that the Americans had been 'purged' to the new South Compound, were working in one way or another for the X and S organisations. It was impossible to contemplate that such a large number could get out through 'Harry' in one night and so a selection procedure had to be devised. I can't remember exactly how this was done, but it was partly on merit and partly by lot. My number came up as 96, and as it was estimated that over 200 would get out if things went reasonably well, I was delighted with that...

Jack Harrison

# My war years at The Academy



**Douglas Maclean's time at Glasgow Academy almost exactly coincided with World War II. Here he remembers the effects of war on his schooldays.**

**I**n September 1939, Britain and France declared war and I became a pupil in *Transitus*. While I adjusted to a new school, everyone had to adjust to evacuations, blackouts, food and clothes rationing. Teachers of military age left and were replaced by retirees and dropping standards, despite the availability of the strap and detentions as punishments. Teaching tools remained chalk (also used as a missile!) and talk, and the ability to write quickly and legibly using an inkwell throughout a 50-minute lesson remained an essential skill. Playground noise and games broadened to include warlike games, which occasionally spilled over into battles between forms before school started. Collectibles expanded to include allied badges and insignia, and fragments of AA shells, land mines and Hess's plane. Topics of conversation now included the latest propaganda in the *Pathe Gazette* newsreels shown in cinemas, and the documentary and fictional films on general release. The relevance of the OTC and the ATC to pupils' futures became clearer and patriotism had a clear focus.

Before I entered S1, the German blitzkrieg had conquered Western Europe and France, where no British army set foot again for four long years – Britain stood alone! In S1 the three end-of-term reports covered nine subjects, rising to eleven in S3, before falling to seven in S4. I grieved for my parents when *The Glasgow Herald* reported that a family friend and TA officer had been killed in action; at least two of my brother Scouts also died in action. Summer term in S1 coincided with British triumphs in Africa against Italians raising our badly-dented morale, and Germany invading Russia. Living history and geography expanded to embrace the world when Japan attacked American and Western colonial empires in the Far East, and inflicted a number of

staggering defeats before the tide began to turn when I was in S2.

To help gather crops, I attended camps at Cupar Fife (1942) while Malta fought to survive and Kirk Yetholm (1944) about the time when Paris was liberated. I also helped the war effort in other ways as a First Glasgow Boy Scout. In the summer term of S4 the parked American Sherman tanks disappeared from Anniesland and the Normandy Landings took place. Within a year the War in Europe was over, and thanks to hard work (e.g. about three hours' homework per night) and my teachers I gained my Highers in March 1945, as British troops recaptured Mandalay and crossed the Rhine. In April, I started my service in the Glasgow University Naval Division, while the rest of my classmates enjoyed the summer term. In retrospect, I believe that our schooling meant more to us than to many peacetime pupils.

The use of atomic bombs against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to an end before I finished Naval training. I served aboard the destroyer HMS *Consort* in 1947, seeing for myself something of worn-torn Plymouth, Gibraltar, Malta, the Suez Canal, Ceylon, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Japan, including devastated Hiroshima – it left an indelible impression.

I like to think that the five years I spent at Glasgow Academy contributed to my lifelong interest in and enjoyment of history, physics, languages, art and reading, and to my knowing Germans, Italians and Japanese as well as other nationals. I regret my lack of proficiency in school French after five years compared with my ability to speak Swedish after a mere four months living and working there!

**Douglas Maclean (1939-1945)**

# A Rector remembered



**I**t is fifty years since the March morning when the school gathered to bid farewell to Frank Roydon Richards. Our picture shows the Rector on the verge of retirement, his wife admiring flowers presented by John Douglas - one of Miss Bremner's Prep 1 boys - and Alan Andrews, Senior Prefect, standing before the antique chest of drawers presented to Mrs Richards. Dr Richards received a radio set, to bring great music into their new Killearn home.

In 1899 the Academy's Directors had dispelled any hint of staid conservatism by appointing Edwin Temple, a man of 32, to follow the 77 year-old Donald Morrison. If it was a risk it paid off - and perhaps it emboldened their successors in 1931 to do the same, for when Temple intimated his retirement they seized the chance to call back to the Academy another man of 32, one who had already made his mark.

Joining the Royal Garrison Artillery as soon as he left school and commissioned on Christmas Eve 1917, Richards had been in France within weeks and was soon injured. With peace came Oxford, a Scholarship in Classics, college rugby and cricket and later a second degree, in Music. Then in 1922 Roydon Richards came to the Academy as a 23 year-old Classicist - scholarly, musical, a games player and an OTC officer.

The *Chronicle* speaks of a man who threw himself into the life of the school - instructing NCOs in the use of the Lewis gun; playing the piano and singing at the Christmas Entertainment; contributing witty playlets and Latin verses to the magazine. But after five busy terms his old school reclaimed him and he went back to Christ's Hospital - for just four years until he achieved a headship, at Bridlington School. Four years after that came another opportunity to return to a

familiar place.

The Academy knew Richards as a man of energy: but after two Rectorships spanning 71 years the whirlwind of change which accompanied his return must have come as a shock.

Quickly, classes were renamed - 'First English' passed into history. The Preparatory

School moved into Colebrooke Terrace and Prayers from the Gym to the Well, where each morning a hymn was sung. A secretary was appointed. Houses were renamed, music was greatly strengthened, the Library was improved. The Prize-giving and Commemoration Service were dignified with new surroundings, St Andrew's Hall and Glasgow Cathedral. New buildings went up. Richards himself, soon a member of the Headmasters' Conference, wrote words and music for a school song and supervised creation of a coat of arms and motto. Above all, the new Rector worked for and contributed to a renewed emphasis on high scholarship, awards at ancient universities a quickly-attained goal.

Richards thrived on administrative and logistical challenge and on a mastery of detail to which surviving memoranda bear eloquent witness: minutiae of staffing requirements, salary calculations, uniform supply, day-to-day arrangements, important school occasions. War in 1939 and fire in 1954 meant significant re-organisation which he managed with apparent ease. It is no surprise to learn that in retirement he devoted much time to studying the decipherment of ancient scripts.

Roydon Richards was Rector for 27 years. He brought to Glasgow Academy much that readers of *Etcetera* will recognise and remember. The written record leaves an impression of a scholarly and industrious man, with a sense of the importance of his office and a lofty vision of the academic heights to which Academy boys could aspire. How, though, do those with personal recollections remember him, fifty years on? Please let the editor of *Etcetera* know.

Iain MacLeod

As Iain MacLeod's article states, Roydon Richards was responsible for writing the school song - in Latin. Ever since, small boys - and nowadays girls - have learned the words faithfully, many of them in total ignorance, we suspect, of what they mean. One such is Dr Warren Luke (1965) who has written recently to ask that we might publish a translation. He cannot have been the first to ask since Richards himself provided a translation in the *Chronicle* of June 1935 for those 'who had been denied, or had denied themselves, the inestimable privilege of Latin study' or 'whose Latinity, owing to the manifold contingencies of Life, is no longer taken down from the shelf and subjected to frequent dustings'!

For Dr Luke and any of the above, here is Frank Roydon Richards' fine verse translation:

## CARMEN

Qui mos erat scholaribus  
Olim, nunc usurpamus;  
Vetustis conditoribus  
Cantus grates agamus;  
Musas est salutare  
Scholae fidem iuvare:  
Sic nos solutis coribus  
Libenter concinamus.

Hic velut in cunabulis  
Vitae fides colenda;  
Mox pubi retinaculis  
Remissae persequenda;  
Aetate post adulta  
Fides erit reculta;  
In factis, in vocabulis  
Semper fides prodenda.

## Idem Anglice Redditum

*From Learning's earliest abode  
Recall we this invention;  
In thanks to him who found this mode  
Of art, there's no dissension  
'Tis well that Music's beauty  
Should aid our loyal duty;  
So let us raise the joyous ode,  
And banish sorrow's mention!*

*Of loyal hearts there is full need  
In early life unletter'd,  
But youth must pay the greater heed  
From childish bonds unfetter'd.  
When in the prime we flourish,  
Still loyal hearts we'll nourish;  
Ne'er let us show by word or deed  
Our loyalty's unletter'd.*

So now we know!

# New member of External Relations team

At the end of October, we welcomed Mark Taylor to a new post at The Academy – that of Deputy Director of Development.

Mark comes to us from Rugby School where he has taught Politics for the past nine years, for most of that time as head of department. Since 2005 he has been Rugby's Director of Extra-Curricular and External Programmes, a post requiring administrative ability and diplomacy in equal measure! In what little spare time he had, Mark was Fundraising Chairman of the Bradby Club, a local youth club linked to the school.

A native of Banffshire, Mark studied at the University of Aberdeen. However, he is no stranger to Glasgow – having



completed his studies at Jordanhill College where he was sent on teaching practice to Drumchapel High School and Douglas Academy.

Since his arrival in the External Relations office, Mark has spent time getting to know the wider Academy family both through telephone contact

and in person. Glasgow Academy Connected – our on-line community, which you can read about elsewhere in this magazine – is his initiative and he has been busy getting together a committee of Westbourne Old Girls and former members of staff who have already set a date for a reunion.

Of his first couple of months in his new job, Mark said: 'I am thoroughly enjoying my new role at The Academy. I am particularly grateful for being made to feel so welcome by everyone.'

With his engaging personality allied to his energy and commitment, we are sure that it will not be long before he is well-known and well-liked by the whole of The Academy community.

## Glasgow Academy Connected

In the next few weeks, you will receive your log-in and password details for GA Connected, a new interactive site for former pupils of The Glasgow Academy and Westbourne School for Girls.

Our very own 'Friends Reunited' type site will allow you to find out what your old schoolmates are doing now, help you get back in touch with them and learn about recent and forthcoming Glasgow Academy community events.

GA Connected was trialled with two year groups in December of last year, so thanks to the classes of 1972 and 1998 for all their help. With their feedback and a new software system in place here at the office, we are now ready to launch!

The new site will allow you to

- search for school friends
- keep your contact details up to date
- view information on forthcoming events
- post your own pictures and news

We hope you enjoy using the site. Look out for your log-in and password details which will arrive by e-mail within the next couple of weeks. If we do not currently have your e-mail address, just get in touch via [exrel@tga.org.uk](mailto:exrel@tga.org.uk) and we'll send off your log-in details.

