

## A.G.M. 2002

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2001/2002

#### 1 MEMBERSHIP

Membership as at 31st March 2002 stood at 289, there being 41 new members and 2 deaths during the year.

During the year there were 152 applications for membership via the Internet, but only 38 sent their £10 subscription for life membership when requested.

A Members E-mail address book is being compiled to enable the Secretary to communicate with Members saving postage costs. It currently comprises 59 names.

#### 2 ARMISTICE DAY CEREMONY, 2001

Because the 11th November 2001 fell on the Sunday, the Wreath Laying Ceremony was held on Monday 12th November. Following the welcoming remarks by the Head Teacher, Jim Thewliss, Gordon Laird gave the introductory address. The Rev David Scott said a prayer and Syd Scroggie recited a sonnet "A Soldier Remembers" that he had written for the occasion. After the two minute silence, Syd Scroggie laid the wreath on behalf of the Former Pupils, Ailsa Deasley and David Miller, the School Captains, laid one on behalf of the School. Jim Thewliss said the Binyon verse (they shall not grow old), Craig Brown (Carnoustie BB) sounded the Last Post and Nicholas Forbes (a former School Captain) piped the Lament, The Floors o' the Forest. The Ceremony closed with the Benediction by the Chaplain.

One member from each class in the School attended, as did Jack Mackersie and Tom Ramsden who had laid the wreaths the two previous years.

#### 3 BURNS SUPPER, 2002

151 Former Pupils and their guests enjoyed the traditional Bums Supper at the Invercarse Hotel on the evening of Monday 21st January. The President of the Association, Gordon Laird presided and addressed the Haggis, Alex Melvin said the Selkirk Grace. Nicholas Forbes piped in the top table guests and the haggis.

Jim Gray, (Deputy Principal of the English Department) gave the Immortal Memory on the theme of Burns and Harris. Roger Bromage toasted the Lasses and Stefani Dailly (another former School Captain) replied with rhyming couplets. Former Association President Mabel Cruickshank proposed the Toast to the School and former Secretary Joyce Wood gave the Vote of Thanks.

The entertainment was provided by a group of senior pupils, Fiona Armstrong, Lee Kehrer, Chloe Wares and Mark Keiller who sang and Edward McLaren who played the fiddle brilliantly. Fiona and Edward were appearing for the second year. Marie-Claire Jones was the Accompanist, Glynis Bromage arranged the program.

The evening ended with the traditional singing of the Harris Holiday Song and Auld Lang Syne, accompanied by Ethel Fitzgerald

#### 4 LUNCHEON CLUB

At an informal lunch after the last Armistice Day Ceremony, it was suggested that FPs should get together for lunch more often. This proposal that was raised at the Bums Supper resulted in 39 sitting down to a most enjoyable lunch at the Invercarse Hotel on Tuesday 19th March. Gordon Laird and guest, Jim Thewliss spoke.

#### 5 HARRIS ACADEMY INTERNET WEBSITE. ([www.harris-academy.com](http://www.harris-academy.com))

The Former Pupils Section of the School Website continues to develop, albeit rather slowly. The "Applications for Membership" part is the most widely used - as reported elsewhere, there has been 152 applications in the past year although only 36 actually took up membership. It is also being used to disseminate information about the activities of the Association (this report will be published on on it) and it has been instrumental in re-uniting old friends (eg Wilson Lorimer and Allan Adamson). News about Former Pupils is provided in the "Newspaper Cuttings" (mainly from the Courier) section. The "Hall of Fame" and "Where Are They Now" sections have now got 4 and 6 entries respectively, many more are required. "Memory Lane" is very popular, but we are still looking for old photographs, reminiscences etc.

#### 6 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Luncheon - Invercarse Hotel 12 for 12.30, Tuesday 28th May. Tom and Margaret Lindsay visiting from New Zealand will be the guests.

Armistice Day Ceremony 10.45am, Monday 11th November at the School Alex Melvin to lay the FP Wreath

Bums Supper, Monday 21st January 2003, 7 for 7.30 at the Invercarse.

#### 9 COUNCIL

Shona Robertson and Marion Milne have resigned from the Council, leaving two vacancies to be filled. Our thanks to them for their contributions.

#### 10 THANKS

My most grateful thanks to all those who have assisted me in my last two years as Secretary - Jim Thewliss and his staff, notably Dennis Speedie, Brigid Flucker, Graham Brindle at the School, Martina Kidd and her staff at the Invercarse, and, Hillary Gibson and latterly Elizabeth Fyffe who maintained the Computer Mailing List. And, finally, our President who presided over us so ably, Stewart who looked after the money and kept the accounts and Sheena who audited them, and, the members of the Council, not forgetting Mabel and Joyce for their help and advice.

George Thomson Secretary