

HARRIS ACADEMY FORMER PUPILS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2010.

Dear FPs,

I am pleased to report on a very vibrant period in the history of the Association. In the last six months we have been very busy and many of us enjoyed ourselves at two big events that took place recently.

First of all, however, we welcome some new members. They are as follows: Gillian Brand, Sheila Cairnie (nee McDonald), Claire Clark, Elaine Darling (nee McMurray), George Flett, Sheena Garbutt (nee Armstrong), James Lindsay, Allan McRae, Pauline Macadam, Margaret Malcolm, Nicola Moore (nee Gollan), Margaret Pearson, Jamie Roberts, Georgette Ure (nee Johnston), Sheena Wellington and Mary Wilders.

We welcome them to the Association and hope to see them at many of our events in time.

Heartiest congratulations from all of us go to Professor Ian C. Colligan on his award of the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Ian, a former Dux of the School and a member of the FP Association Council, gained this award for his first class service to Further Education in Dundee. He has recently retired as Chairman of the Governing Board of Dundee College after ten years in post.

Regrettably, there are deaths to announce. Florence (Molly) Mudie was a member of the FP Council soon after she left school in 1932 and her life through herself and her family was linked to Harris for a very long time. Agnes (Nancy) Keay was a School Captain and teacher at the School. Nancy also retained her connection through the Association right to the end of her life. To both families we offer our sincere condolences.

On 9th June an inspired idea from our Honorary President, Rosemary Matheson-Dear came to fruition in a concert presented to a large gathering in the School Hall. The theme was "Harris Academy, Past, Present and Future" and FPs, led by Lesley Mackie and Sheena Wellington, joined in a varied programme with some of the School's leading musicians. This evening was a very happy one and was a triumph for the organising committee, which consisted of most of the Council under the chairmanship of Rosemary. However, the concert was not only about entertainment but was also designed to raise money for chosen charities – CHAS (especially Rachel House at Kinross) and DEBRA. We were delighted that a cheque for £1000 could be presented to both of these charities. These cheques were presented at the 125th Anniversary Lunch in September with Rosemary and Fiona Smart doing the honours.

On the Wednesday after our FP sponsored Concert a number of FPs attended the School Concert, when the Music Department showed us just how much talent there is in the School. This was a splendid evening of entertainment and I am sure that FPs would be very welcome to attend these concerts.

The last day of term saw the Prizegiving. It is always a pleasure to see so many talented students being recognised for a wide variety of distinctions in so many fields.

It was also good to hear of some of the senior pupils doing very worthwhile jobs in remote areas of the world. This meant they missed the Prizegiving, but illustrated just how caring so many of these young people are. For FPs since 1950, the winner of the three main House trophies for first and second years, for best House at Sport and for best overall House was **KINLOCH** in a clean sweep. Visitors to the School must be aware of distinct lack of red and yellow on the champions' boards in recent years.

The day we had set aside to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the opening of Harris Academy had been at the planning stage for many months. On 4th September it arrived. From 10am to 12noon a display of memorabilia was held in the Hall and tours round the School were available. Around 180 to 200 people came into school that day and could enjoy memories from their schooldays and chat to those with whom they had been at school. Rosemary Matheson-Dear thought out the display in the Hall and members of Council carried out her ideas most successfully. Photographs from the school's collection were also there and people could see themselves and their classmates from Primary 1 to Sixth Year. Various themes had been offered and maroon, black and gold figured largely. One interesting item was the opportunity to write down School memories and they proved an intriguing read.

Over 160 people then proceeded to the West Park Conference Centre for a lunch of celebration. Unfortunately, our hosts at West Park faced problems and some people were unable to benefit from their lunch as much as they might have done. The West Park management very freely accepted responsibility and made very generous recompense that was returned to our members. However, the day was too good to be seriously marred and we enjoyed an excellent speech from Stan Mitchell, former School Captain and teacher, who toasted the School and Association. Jim Thewliss replied very ably. Once more, those members of the Council who played such a prominent part in the organisation of this day deserve our thanks and congratulations.

I would like to ask for your help, if you can give it. Recently, the photograph of House Officials for session 1956-57 has come to light. We have identified the people on it and, for the Staff, the position held. Miss Baird, of the Primary Department is the exception. She would be Assistant House Mistress of Cawdor or Kinloch. Does anyone know which? Of the pupils we can identify Ian Farquhar as Birnam Captain and George Lewthwaite as the Vice-Captain, Ernest Fenton as the Cawdor Captain and James Anderson as the Vice-Captain; Thomas Coventry and John Heggie were the Forres boys, but which was the Captain? This would leave Anthony Whiteside and Noel Young as the Kinloch pair, but again, who was the Captain? Of the girls we know that Myfanwy Gilbert was the House Captain and Gloria Ramsay was the Vice-Captain of Kinloch. We can identify Wilma Milne as one of the Birnam officials and Eveline Reid as one of the Cawdor officials. For Linda Bruce and Marilyn Melville, we know neither House nor position. There are only six girls on the picture so obviously two are missing. Who were they? As you can see we have some gaps in our knowledge. **PLEASE HELP, IF YOU CAN – AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS TOO.**

We look forward to seeing you at our future events that Isobel has detailed in her letter accompanying this one.

Best wishes to you all for now, for Christmas and for 2011,
John Baxter, President.