

# HARRIS ACADEMY FORMER PUPILS' ASSOCIATION



## FROM THE PRESIDENT – AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Members

I can't believe a whole year has passed since I wrote to you. How time flies!

At the AGM 2015 Mrs Isobel Colligan, Social Secretary and former Association Secretary, demitted office. She worked very hard during her term in Office and made many positive contributions to our various events. Although Isobel remains a Member of Council, we hope she will now find time to relax and to spend more time with her family. To Isobel we offer our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future.

Unfortunately there are no new Members to report – perhaps current Members could persuade more FPs to join the Association.

On a more sombre note there have been several deaths over the year. Former teachers James MacRae (Head of History), Consuelo Stewart (Spanish Assistant), Andrew Beck (Languages), and Maureen Brehm (History) are sadly no longer with us. Others who have passed away include Iain McAdam, Robert Nairn, Mrs Sonia Fodor (who at age 5 started her Harris career in the “new” Perth Road building) and Agnes Halley. Two active members - Winnie Nicoll and Mabel Cruickshank - have also died. Both frequently attended lunches, Burns` Suppers and other events. Mabel, a former President of the Association, was an Honorary Vice President when she died. She was a very enthusiastic Member who was always ready to offer help and advice to others. They will all be greatly missed and to their families and friends we extend our heartfelt condolences. If there are any omissions from the above list I offer my sincere apologies.

In November 2014 a short Armistice Service was held in School and it was good to see several Members of the Association there. Our Honorary President, Mrs Rosemary Matheson-Dear, laid the wreath on behalf of the Association, and the School Captains laid a wreath on behalf of the School. It is always a moving ceremony and it is hoped that even more FPs may be able to attend this year at 10.30 am on Wednesday 11 November 2015 in the Lawton Road building.

At the beginning of December 2014 a Christmas Fair was held in School and FPs manned an Association stall at it. Visitor numbers could have been better but, hopefully, it gave an opportunity to enable the Association to “be noticed” and to make others aware that we exist.

Dundee West Church was the venue for the annual Carol Concert in December 2014. As ever the Present Pupils who were performing displayed a great variety of musical talent and contributed to a memorable evening.

Lunch numbers have varied throughout the year but these occasions give attendees the opportunity to mingle and chat to friends in a happy atmosphere.

Our Burns` Night in January 2015 went well and was enjoyed by those present. Thanks are due to Invercarse Hotel and to Isobel Colligan, the then Social Secretary, and her team for the success of the evening.

Prize-giving was once again held in St Peter`s and Paul`s Church - not the most spacious of buildings for this purpose - and representatives from the Association attended. It is quite amazing to learn of the many varied activities - both academic and otherwise - in which Present Pupils have participated and in which they have excelled.

At our June 2015 Lunch the Association presented Mr Jim Thewliss, retiring Rector of the School, with a print of Gordon Laird`s painting of the "1931" Harris Academy and a framed certificate of Membership of the Association. We have since received thanks from Jim. He also mentioned how immensely proud he was to have held that position and how much he had appreciated the support of the Association during the nineteen years he was in office.

Recently it was a great pleasure to welcome Mrs Angela White, Acting Head Teacher, to our September 2015 Lunch. Angela outlined her vision of how she sees the School will go forward in the future. We all look forward to working together and we wish Angela well in all the challenges she may face while in her current post.

The new School building seems to be progressing well and the famous clock has now been returned to the School site, albeit in a different location. It has been positioned on the top of a sandstone tower erected on the Entrance Plaza. It is a wonderfully familiar sight which brings back memories of the previous building and of our schooldays. The installation of the former Main Entrance portico in the entrance to the new School has also commenced.

We hope to see you at future events and we hope you will encourage friends to come along with you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy S. Drummond  
President