

KILGRASTON ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our Reunion celebrating Kilgraston's 80th Birthday was held on the weekend of the 21st to 22nd of August 2010. The school hosted a drinks reception in Central Hall and to judge by the echoing sounds of talk, it made a wonderful start to a super weekend. The shrieks of laughter and joy at being reunited with friends shrilled through the air. Bishop Farquhar (our adopted KG) along with Mr. Tim Hall (Chairman of the Board of Governors) and Fr. Clark (School Chaplain) joined in our celebrations. Margaret Myles, our oldest KG, was accompanied by her daughter Elizabeth and cut the Birthday cake before receiving a bouquet of flowers from the Association.

The nuns were represented by Sisters Pope, Farquharson and Triay but it was very difficult to get near them as everyone wanted to chat. Sister Hannan sent a letter with her apologies and hopes to be at the next one. We missed her and wish her a speedy recovery. It was also lovely to have so many former members of staff present and who were able to narrate many tales!

Lunch in the New Theatre made a wonderful setting and the food prepared by Dougie and his team was scrumptious; in fact they have just received an award, well deserved. The new Upper 6th gave up their Summer Break to make very efficient waitresses and will hopefully join us as guests next time! After lunch there was a quick AGM and in an open debate it was decided to keep the reunions to every five years and to continue holding them at Kilgraston. I stepped down as President and handed over to Jane Gordon whom I am sure will make an excellent replacement and carry on the traditions, whilst taking our Association forward. For those of us staying at school, the evening was spent walking round the beautiful grounds admiring all the new facilities or having a swim in the glorious pool before supper. Three lovely young Mexicans, the de Icaza sisters, Maria del Carmen, Ana Josefa and Ximena who each attended Kilgraston for a year during 1989, 1989 and 1996 respectively, joined us in the evening, reminiscing fondly of their schooldays.

Sunday Mass, celebrated by Bishop Tony was offered up for all those KGs who had died in the last year. In his homily the Bishop reflected on school life and the expectations that we had then compared to what we are today. He said it may not all have gone as we had planned but hopefully Kilgraston had given us that little bit extra to see it through. Marika accompanied on the organ beautifully throughout Mass ending with 'Our Lady of Kilgraston', which brought a few tears.

After coffee in the Central Hall we said our goodbyes with handfuls of phone numbers, e-mail addresses and promises to meet again in 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big Thank you to Mr. Farmer for making all us KGs so welcome at Kilgraston and to congratulate both him and his staff on the outstanding job that they are all doing. Also to Roddy Baird for all the hard work in organizing a fantastic weekend for us, along with Iain Smith for the excellent housekeeping. Last but not least to Jane and Bridget who have supported me over the past six years – thanks, girls, for always being at my beck and call. I couldn't have survived without you. Finally, Thank you to you all for the beautiful flowers and gift card, I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

COLETTE SHEVLANE



CATRIONA DALLING (1969) & ANNA CAMPBELL (1964)



VERONICA WHITESIDE AND FIONA MCCARTHY (FORMER STAFF)



JACKIE GANNON (1974), HEATHER ANNE FERGUS (STRACHAN) (1975) AND JANET YORSTON (1975)



IREANA PENNY PARKINSON (LASTOWIECKA) (1965), MARY BUCHER (PITCAITHLY) (1966) & JOHANNA WILSON (CAMERON) (1973)



ANN BLAKEY (FINDLAY) (1984) WITH FREDDIE



JANE NAA KWAALE DOVE (1967) AND FIONA LUKAS (OGILVIE) (1966)



JACKIE GANNON (1974) & DEIRDRE MCCREATH (MACLELLAN) (1973)



CATHIE MCLAUGHLAN WITH SR BARBARA FARQUHARSON (FORMER STAFF)



MARGARET MYLES (BLACKWELL) (1939), FIONA TODD (2006) AND COLETTE SHEVLANE (SMITH) (1967)



SR MARGARET POPE (FORMER STAFF)



CHRISTINE PRINGLE (MCLAUGHLIN) (1962), ANGELA TRAYNOR (FABRON) (1962) & FR ANDREW CLARK (CHAPLAIN)



JOYCE HUNTER (FORMER STAFF) AND MARIKA DE PETTES (1962)



MARGARET LEESON (TENNENT) (1952) & VALERIE WILSON (GRANT) (1947)



KILGRASTON ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS TO AUGUST 2010

Births



To **Katie (nee Nocher)** and John Douglas, in June 2009, a daughter Erin (left)

To **Meriel (nee MacDonald)** and Peter Strang Steel, on 23rd October 2009 a son, Milo Aubrey Thomas

To **Ann (nee Findlay)** and Andrew Blakey, a son Freddy in 2009

To **Vikki (nee Murray)** and Hugh Cope, on 26th November 2009 a son, Bertie

To **Mandy (nee Somerville)** and Richard Ford, on 8th January 2010, a daughter Zoe Ailsa

To **Natasha (nee Taylor)** and Niki Dickson, on 22nd May 2010, a daughter Larissa Mae

Engagements

Olivia Walker to Oliver Thomson, (brother of Victoria Thomson)

Katherine Adam to Henry Dennis

SHEILA KING

OBITUARY 1946 – 2009

'There never was yet an uninteresting life, inside all of us there is drama, comedy and tragedy' (Mark Twain)

Sheila was a pupil at Kilgraston from 1958 until 1964. School for her was a happy and fulfilling place. She excelled at sport and tennis in particular winning the Kilgraston tennis cup in her final year having become Perth and District junior champion the year before. On leaving school, she graduated in History from Edinburgh University, and taught at various schools in and around Edinburgh until she retired in 2005. Her love of tennis never left her and she became the first ever Honorary Secretary of the East of Scotland Tennis Coaches Association. She also began the Lawn Tennis Grass Roots scheme through which many youngsters were introduced to the game.

Sheila was an individual! Those of us who knew her will remember her in different ways, but all would agree that whatever task she undertook, she embraced with determination, zeal and integrity; none more so than that of Secretary for the Association in 1981 (a post she held for the next 27 years.) Delegation was not a word in Sheila's vocabulary and she spent many an hour sorting, filing and painstakingly recording relevant information for every pupil at Kilgraston past and present. Her detailed knowledge of all things pertinent to the Association was second to none. For example, those who attended the School's Millennium Celebrations were delighted to find a series of photograph albums which Sheila had set out chronologically with names, dates and personal comments. The Alumnae today have much to be grateful to Sheila for the work she did over so many years. I am sure all who knew Sheila would have a story to tell, and one of my personal memories of her was when she and I went to Armagh to visit Sister Hannan. Sheila was a bad sailor, and crossing the Irish Sea was one of the very few times I remember her being completely silent! Once in Armagh she took the first opportunity to go to Mass and light a candle to ensure a safe journey home! We all have different journeys and different paths along the way Sheila's journey had an effect on all who met her and I like to think she 'made a difference'.

GILL PORTER

Marriages

Kate Wardman to John Finlayson on 25th October 2008 at Brisbane Boys' College, Australia

Emma Fitton to Andrew Kenny in Dundurn Church, St Fillans, Perthshire in 2009

Marie-Louise Blair to Douglas Shaw on 3rd October 2009 at the Chapel of St Lesmo, Glen Tanar, Aboyne

Georgina l'Anson to Toby Smith in 2010



Deaths

Our sympathy to the following

Marie Claire and **Charlotte Black** on the death of their father, Major Donald Black MC on 28th August 2009

The family of **Sheila King** who died at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh on 16th November 2009

Kirstin Holst on the death of her father Peter Holst in December 2009

Michele and **Louise Giulianotti** on the death of their father, Henry Giulianotti, on 2nd January 2010

Sue Cheape (nee Learmonth) on the death of her mother, **Clare Learmonth (nee Campbell)** in February 2010

Amanda Besterman (nee Childs) and **Janie Childs** on the death of their father, Col. John Childs CBE, on 31st May 2010

Amanda and **Jennifer Kirk** on the death of their mother, Jinty Kirk on 31st July 2010

Sister Frances Arrowsmith rscj and **Dr Meg Lawless** on the death of their sister, **Sister Theresa Arrowsmith IBVM**, Bar Convent, York on 2nd August 2010. Margaret Myles writes, *"We were in the same class for four and a half years. Theresa arrived for the summer term in 1935 aged thirteen. She was sent to Kilgraston from her home in Lancashire because her parents knew Mother Eaton. Theresa was terribly bright! She continued to do extremely well at school but was always smiling, laughing and completely unaware of how clever she was. We loved her and admired her. She led such a remarkable life and will be so sadly missed. God bless her and may she rest in peace."*

The family of **Sister Bessie Farley rscj**, who was a member of the Kilgraston Community in the early 1980s and who died on 15th August 2010 at the age of 98. (She joined the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1931.)

Moira Gibson (nee Blackman) on the death of her husband, Grahame Gibson in 2010.

The family of **Anne van den Berg (nee Byers)** who died on 17th August 2010.

NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS

Ashleigh Campbell who left in 2008 has been trekking and teaching in Fiji. "The Ruku Ruku trek was hard, with its 2 metre rock faces and vertical drops on either side but the views from the top of Tomua were unforgettable. We also got to swim in a rock pool at the end. I taught at the school for two weeks which was really interesting. We are coming to the end of probably the best experience ever and I will really miss Nasavuki life but mostly I'll miss 'my family.'

Janie Childs writes, "Amanda and I have lost our father, Colonel John Childs CBE who died in London at the age of 95. He was Amanda's father and my step-father, although he was my father from the age of 3 – hence why I have his name. He took me on with my mother when they married in 1946 and he sent me to Kilgraston when they were stationed at Perth Headquarters. He served in the Royal Scots Greys – the regiment then became the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1971."

Vikki Cope (nee Murray) writes: "My husband and I have taken over a restaurant in Haddington, The Waterside Bistro. It has been months of refurbishment, staffing, training and late nights but it's finally done and we are excited to be open now. I am also being kept busy by my two little boys Max aged two, and Bertie who is eight months old." (The Waterside Bistro is in a lovely setting by the river next to the historic Nungate Bridge. www.watersidebistro.co.uk)

Esperanza de Velasco has been in touch via Kilgraston Facebook link with the news that her sister **Ana Maria** (Kilgraston 1995-1996) had a baby girl Victoria on 8th April 2010.

Katie Douglas (nee Nocher) reports that 2009 was a very busy year for her as she got married to John in Stirling and their daughter Erin was born! Katie does valuable work as Clinical Trials Co-ordinator for Cancer Research UK at the Beatson Cancer Centre, Glasgow.

Kate Finlayson (nee Wardman) writes, "We have recently relocated to France with our dog Bundy and are settling into life over here living in Brittany. My husband is the director of our family company and we design, manufacture and supply the world with EID - Electronic Identification."

Emma Kenny (nee Fitton) and **Marijke Kenny (nee Hansson-Bolt)** visited Kilgraston in August 2010. These two former pupils married two brothers.

Emily Kwok (nee Tang) enjoys meeting up with **Sophie Byrne** who has moved to Hong Kong with her husband and two daughters. Emily's cousin **Patricia** started at Kilgraston in the Lower 6th in 2010.

Ivana (Qianqi) Lin who was a pupil at Kilgraston in Upper 6th from 2008 to 2009 gained a Distinction in the 2010 Preliminary Examination in Chemistry at Somerville College,

Oxford University. She was awarded a College Prize to recognise the high standard of her work.

Anne Sinclair (nee McGettigan) and Ronald Sinclair celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary in September 2009.

Sarah Thomson continues to lead a life full of challenging adventures. In March 2010 she went to Nepal and trekked to Everest Base Camp at a height of 17,500 ft. raising funds for Ninewells Hospital vascular lab and the Fife Rape Crisis Centre.

Louise Verity donated a copy of her new children's book Pollyhester, (published by The Lilliput Press in April 2010) to Kilgraston. Louise lives in France with her Danish husband and their four dogs. Louise is a great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus (author of *Memoirs of a Highland Lady*.)

Nicola Vermuelen who left in 2009 spent part of her gap year teaching in Africa. Her sister **Jennifer Vermuelen** who left in 2008 has been spending her second summer working at Holme Park Summer Language School (led by Mrs Vivienne Curry) at Kilgraston where she was joined this year by **Laura Hawksby**.

STOP PRESS **Gemma Davis** reported that her sister **Chantel Whelan (nee Davis)** and husband Jon had a daughter Lexie in April 2010. Gemma is working in the civil service for the Scottish Minister for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham.



Kimberly Wong who left Kilgraston in December 2006 writes, "Kilgraston made me more enthusiastic and passionate about my musical ability and definitely boosted my confidence and self-esteem in all dimensions. I must thank all teachers and friends I met at school, especially Maggie, my Scottish Mother, guardian and teacher. After I left school, I flew to the other side of the world – New Zealand – to begin my tertiary education at the University of Otago, Dunedin. I tried the primary teaching course for a little while and as I decided that music was my utmost passion at the time, I completed a BA with music major in 2009. This year, I am finally back to my dream of being a teacher and started a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) in January this year. (In New Zealand we begin our academic year at the start of the year in January or February.) As it was getting towards the end of the course, I quickly had my CV and covering letters ready to apply for jobs. That was when the very good news really begins. I was invited for an interview and then asked back the following week to revisit the Montessori early childhood centre – and they offered me the job that very afternoon. My career is beginning to blossom and one of the reasons for offering me the job was because of my musical ability that Kilgraston had fostered in me. Thank you again to everyone who I met during my school years at Kilgraston which has led me into a successful path for the future. If you would like to talk to me about anything, please don't hesitate to contact me."



Graduations

Claire Scott LLB (Hons) Law Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen 2009

Kimberly Wong BA Music University of Otago December 2009

Sophie Chalmers BEd. (Hons) Primary, University of Aberdeen 2010

Frances Johnston MA (Anthropology) University of Aberdeen 2010

Tracy Johnston MA (Hons) Economics-International Relations 2.1 University of Aberdeen 2010

Kirsten Tipping LL.B. Law University of Glasgow 2010

Sophie Ellis BSc. Food Science, Technology and Management Heriot-Watt University 2010

Sinéad Esler BA (Hons) English 2.1 Jesus College, Oxford University 2010

Message from the Director of Development, Roderick Baird

It was great to see so many of you at the Reunion and I hope that those who accompanied me on the school tour were impressed by what they saw. 2011 is going to be another exciting year for us all. The Golden Jubilee of the Chapel takes place this year and details of the celebrations will be announced very shortly. We are also planning to organise our second event in London at a prestigious venue. To ensure that you receive details and invitations to all events and activities of interest, can I urge you to register on the Alumnae Section of our website (www.kilgraston.com) and/or join the official Kilgraston Development Group on Facebook; and those of you who are registered on 'Linked In', the business oriented social networking site, may like to make a "connection" with me.

Former pupils and friends of Kilgraston who reside in much of Europe and the USA can support Kilgraston tax efficiently. Kilgraston is registered with Transnational Giving Europe; donations from the following countries can now be tax efficient: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Switzerland. The British Schools and Universities Foundation Inc (BSUF) is a New York based charitable organization, recognised by the IRS as 501(c) 3 which is able to forward donations on to Kilgraston: US taxpayers can make a tax efficient gift to Kilgraston through the BSUF. For further information please either contact me at Kilgraston or visit www.transnationalgiving.eu in Europe; www.bsuf.org in the USA.