



# Leith Links

Special Edition  
Sept '10



## LEITH ACADEMY - 450 YEARS OLD

*This year 2010 is the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leith Academy, underlining its claim to be one of the oldest schools in Scotland. In the earlier part of the year, the school has placed an emphasis on celebrating the diversity of the school community in 2010 through its photographic competition and Diversity Show and marketplace as well as Diversity Workshops in June, involving nearly every pupil (all previously reported in Leith Links and even in the local free newspaper The Speaker).*

*At the same time, there has been a focus on the past too with work ongoing to unveil a new memorial to former pupils who died in World War II. This is an initiative which came from an S2 pupil but which has involved a growing number of pupils and staff and whose research has been literally worldwide. The memorial, in the design of which pupils have had a major input, will be unveiled at the annual Service of Remembrance on 11 November. In addition, other pupils have been instrumental in raising awareness of and setting up a petition for the return of the Leith flag to Leith. (This flag with the 'Persevere' emblem on it hasn't flown in Leith since it merged with Edinburgh in 1920.) The pupils presented the petition of almost 600 signatures to the Deputy Lord Provost, Cllr Rob Munn, in June and he is negotiating with the Lord Lyon King of Arms for permission to be granted for the flag to be flown from public buildings, hopefully from sometime later this year. How apt it would be for this to happen in the 450<sup>th</sup> year of the school, which has maintained its own version of the 'Persevere' emblem across all the years. There are items on both these initiatives in this edition of Leith Links.*

*The school will be holding an Open Afternoon/Evening on Thursday, 7 October to which it would like to invite former pupils, especially those who go back to the school being based in the old Duke Street building. This event is intended to give to those former pupils an idea of what the school is like today in 2010. There will be tours of the building with displays in departments and staff and pupils on hand to answer any questions. Refreshments will be provided; there's a good chance souvenirs will be on sale and it will also give an opportunity for people to meet up with their former schoolfriends. If you left school between 1966 and 1985 you might be able to pick up your record card. All former pupils, as well as former staff, are welcome to attend and if you fall into one of those categories and would like to come, please 'phone the school on 554-0606 or e-mail [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leith.edin.sch.uk) to confirm so as to give us an idea of what numbers to expect. The Open Afternoon/Evening will run from 4.30-7.00pm. It would be particularly good to welcome as many of the Duxes as possible - the Dux board stretches back to 1898 so not every one will be able to attend! - as well as to track down the oldest living former pupil. Again, if that's you, or if you know someone who is, please let us know.*

*Remember the date for your diary: Thursday, 7 October from 4.30-7.00pm. And don't forget to let us know if you're coming, on 554 0606 or [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leith.edin.sch.uk).*



: 0131 554 0606



: [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leith.edin.sch.uk)

### Useful Contacts

#### Senior Management Team

*Mr J M Simpson - Headteacher*

*Mrs D MacKinnon - Senior DHT*

*Mr D Peat - DHT*

*Miss S Cook - DHT*

*Ms M Peebles Business Manager*

#### Pupil Support

#### House Heads

*Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)*

*Ms A Bridgeford (Barton)*

*Mrs K Fisher (Cowan)*

*Mr G Hansen (Port)*

**ASL Manager**

*Ms C Prime*

**Community Programme Manager**

*Mrs C Carstairs*

## IN MEMORIAM

**ALASTAIR G CHISHOLM**  
1953-2010

*Some of you will know already that Mr Alastair Chisholm, computing teacher, died suddenly and unexpectedly during the summer holidays.*



*This has come as a shock to the school community. Mr Chisholm had a lifelong association with Leith Academy in that he was a pupil of the school, both at primary and secondary levels and ended his education here as Dux in 1971. After university and teacher-training college, plus a year teaching in West Lothian, he returned to Leith Academy, initially as a physics teacher and then taking on a responsibility for computing. Given that long association, it was appropriate that the school was well represented at his funeral which was held at Seafeld Crematorium on 26 July. Around fifty staff and former staff, as well as about twenty pupils were present and I am particularly grateful to those pupils who attended, and who so well represented themselves as individuals and the school as a whole. I know that their presence was a particular comfort to Mr Chisholm's close family and friends at what was an obviously difficult time for them.*

*Mr Chisholm's family has expressed a desire to maintain a link with the school by setting up a prize in his memory to be awarded at the annual Evening of Celebration. In addition, one of the main charities to benefit from the money raised in the forthcoming Sponsored Walk will be the British Heart Foundation. This charity was named by Mr Chisholm's family as one to which they requested that people donate instead of sending flowers to the funeral. This then is something practical that the whole school community can do and, in so doing, both remember Mr Chisholm and his contribution to Leith Academy over many years as well as help fund research into the important issue of heart disease and how to better deal with it.*

*We will each remember Mr Chisholm in our own way as a long-standing member of staff and we think about his close family and friends at the start of a new school year from which he is absent.*

*In practical terms, Mr Chisholm's classes will be taken by a replacement computing teacher. I have intimated to pupils in those classes that they can best pay tribute to Mr Chisholm's memory by working co-operatively with the teacher and each other in order to gain good grades at the end of the session.*

## Flag of Leith

*55 Higher Modern Studies pupils have been working with local man Alex Wilson to try to get the flag of Leith restored to the community. What started as a pressure group exercise for the political issues section of their course has led the pupils to the City Chambers and a meeting on 16 June with Deputy Lord Provost, Cllr Rob Munn.*

*In 1920 Leith merged with Edinburgh and at that point Leith lost the right to fly its flag. It is 90 years since the flag was returned to the Court of the Lord Lyon and, given that the school is also 450 years old this year, the pupils felt it was time to appeal to the Lord Lyon to have the flag restored.*

*After raising awareness of the issue by presenting assemblies in school; Brooke Walker, Robyn Mackay, Darren Barclay, William Jaquet, Euan Morrice, Christy Park, Sam Cameron, Ellen Donaldson and Megan Lamb collected 582 signatures for their petition to present to the Deputy Lord Provost.*

*Cllr Munn hosted a reception for Headteacher Jack Simpson, the pupils and their teacher, Nadia Steele, PT Social Subjects, in the Members Lounge of the City Chambers and the petition was appropriately handed over in front of the*



*'Persevere' window, not only symbolic of Leith but also Leith Academy's motto. Now that Cllr Munn has the petition he will take up the issue with Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Team before they then petition the Court of the Lord Lyon. It is hoped to have the flag restored during Leith Academy's 450<sup>th</sup> year.*

# Lest we forget ...

*(adapted from an article in the Edinburgh Evening News, 22 January 2010)*

*S3 pupil Glynn Mullen has been focusing a lot of his energies recently on securing a fitting tribute to soldiers from Leith Academy who lost their lives in the Second World War. He has spent months researching the details of the men who died, allowing a new board of remembrance to eventually be made and hung in the building later this year.*

*Glynn's interest in the pupils from the school who died in the 1939-45 conflict came about when he noticed there was no official remembrance board with names in the school for them. Although former pupils who died in the First World War have one, there is only an 'In Memoriam' plaque to signify the later conflict.*

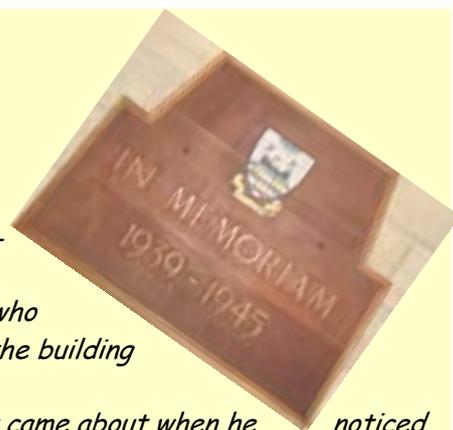
*With the support of youth worker Robbie Huxtable, Glynn set about finding out which pupils went, but never came back, eventually gathering the names of all 75 men, as well as autobiographical material about them. His research has involved old school registers, a book of remembrance donated to the school by South Leith Parish Church in the 1950s, visits to cemeteries and much communication with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He has also met with relatives of the deceased, and now knows where the men lived in Leith, some details about their families, where and how they died, as well as where they are buried.*

*Glynn has developed a real passion for this and gradually more information has been gleaned from people from the community and beyond. With extra help from the Leith community, and beyond, comprehensive fact files are being made about each soldier.*

*Glynn, together with S5 pupils in Art & Design have helped design the new commemorative board and staff in Craft and Design are making it. Ms Richardson has assisted in the design and has been instrumental in arranging for the names to be engraved.*

*The new memorial board will be unveiled at the school's Remembrance Service on 11 November to which it is hoped to invite relatives of some of the fallen*

*Anyone who can help Glynn further with his investigations should contact Robbie Huxtable at the school on 0131-554 0606 or e-mail [robert.huxtable@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:robert.huxtable@leith.edin.sch.uk).*



## Leith Academy Sports Fair 2010

*All S1 and S2 pupils were involved in the Sports Fair on Friday 27 August. This is the second time we have had a Sports Fair at Leith Academy. All of the pupils were given the opportunity to participate in some of the many after school activities offered at Leith Academy.*

*The wide selection of after school clubs include, Dance, Gymnastics, Swimming, Girls Only Fitness, Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball, Girls Football, Rugby, Hockey, Golf, Skiing and Boys Football.*

*We are pleased to announce that many of the S1 and 2 have collected the permission / application forms to enter one or more of the activities offered, and the clubs are filling up fast! This promotion has been very successful and we are hoping to run something similar in 2011. It is hoped that with an early interest in activity pupils will grow in confidence and skill in their chosen discipline. There are many health and wellbeing benefits of taking part in regular physical activity. For example people who take part in physical activity are less likely to have problems with their heart and lungs. With there*

*being so many physical and mental benefits of taking part in physical activity and with such a range of activities on offer, pupils would be mad not to sign up!*

*Leith Academy Physical Education Department and After School Co-ordinator are grateful to all of the volunteers who give up their own time to coach and assist in this vitally important part of the extended school day. Long may it continue!*



# Expedition to Honduras June 2010



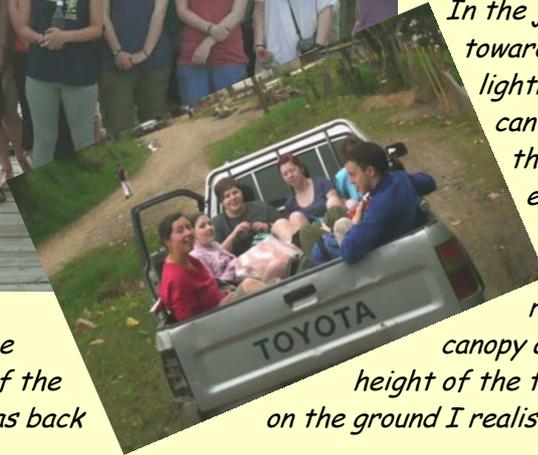
Well, we made it! Our intrepid team reached Cusuco National Park in the mountains of north western Honduras at the end of June and transferred for the second week to the island of Utila for the scuba dive training in July. Not only was it about 36 hours of travelling by coach, plane, bus and 4x4, it was 2 years planning and fundraising that finally came to fruition. And it was eve-

rything and more than we expected. We have lots of memories and photos that we will be putting them together for future events this term like the Open Evening and school assemblies so for now it's easiest to give some comments from the Team:



In the jungle the noise of thunder rolling towards you with torrential rain and lightning, when sheltering only under canvas or hammock, was beyond anything I had previously experienced.

ropes to access the tree sure about it because of the was scary but once I was back enjoyed it.



When we were in the rainforest we used canopy at 50m up. I wasn't too height of the tree we had to climb. It on the ground I realised just how much I en-

We entered a small pathway between some of the trees. All of a sudden there were the monkeys loud calls to each other; the noise they made caused your heart to speed because we were getting so close to them and it is just so amazing to see such an amazing wild animal calling or sleeping in the tree top right before your eyes. It's not something you can easily explain because it is so real.



At first I was scared at the thought of being under the water with just a mouth piece to breathe. On the last day we were able to see a lovely eagle ray swim past us. It brilliant! I am really glad that I gave the scuba diving a try. It was a great experience for me. Looking back at the experience the thing I valued most from the visit to Honduras was the opportunity to reach and surpass my previous limits.



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## Sunshine on Leith

Last Thursday, as part of the school's ongoing celebration of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all staff and pupils took part in a piece of photographic history. The sun shone as we made our way onto the playing field and found our allocated spaces. 'LA 450' was spelt out in 35 metre long figures across the football pitch; the nursery, S1 and S2 formed the letters 'LA' and S3,4,5 and 6 formed the numbers '450'.



All pupils waved as Tony Gorzkowski of White House Studios, flew over the school and took some amazing aerial shots of both the pupils and the school buildings. The photographs will be for sale at the cost of £5 for an A4 print and they can be viewed at the school office.

Are you a fan of Tom Hanks, Bill Clinton, Twiggy or Fernando Torres? You are? Then make sure to check out the wide selection of celebrity photographs in school wishing Leith Academy many best wishes on the occasion of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary when you pop in during the Open Day on 7 October 2010.

Nadia Steele - PT Social Subjects