

'Former Pupils' Memory Lane Lunch'

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Schooldays were recalled and reminisced about on Saturday when The Gordon Schools' Former Pupils' Association hosted a 'Let's Do It, Let's Meet Again' reunion lunch. In the region of 180 people attended the lunch, coming from far and near to join in the first official gathering since a similar event held as part of Gordon 2000. Former pupils in their eighties and perhaps even older, joined some who had left school much more recently.

An Honorary President, Dr Hugh Brebner, whose father was a Rector at The Gordon Schools, was member of the top table. Sandra McCulloch presided over the lunch and a welcome to The Gordon Schools was extended by the current Rector, Zander Hall.



(Photograph courtesy of 'The Huntly Express')

Grace was said by Patrick Scott and while a lovely meal was enjoyed, the assembly hall resonated as acquaintances were renewed and conversations flowed. The guest speaker was George Donald, an Honorary Vice-President of the Association and former member of 'Scotland The What?'

In an interesting and entertaining address, George Donald looked back on his days at The Gordon Schools which he said he left more than half a century ago. He spoke of the characters and teachers who were part of his 'uncomplicated school days' and of his 'fond memories of a happy childhood'. George Donald went on to speak about his time with the Grosvenor Dance Band and the Harmonica Orchestra and demonstrated that his musical talent is as bright as ever when he played the piano. In true 'Scotland The What?' style,

he told stories and one in particular about a school prizegiving was particularly apt.

Moving along with modern technology, the Former Pupils' Association has developed a website. The webmaster, former Rector John Swan, spoke on the development and said it was hoped that more recent former pupils might be encouraged to become part of the Association if they were able to keep abreast of its activities through the internet. Mr Swan spoke of the huge archive of materials held by the organisation and said, "It is a great tribute to a wonderful Former Pupils' Association."

Former pupil Eric Rice, a lecturer in academic studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama made a final contribution to the programme when he performed a ballad which he had written about The Gordon Schools and his recollections of days spent there.

The School Song was sung to close the afternoon, but the company lingered on into the late afternoon browsing the displays of photographs and memorabilia. Senior pupils acted as guides and took several groups on a tour of the school.