

FROM PAGE ONE

then aged just five and six, were the subject of overwhelming worldwide sympathy.

But now the Sunday Express can reveal how, on their web-based social networking sites, some of them have boasted about alcoholic binges and fights.

For instance, Stewart Weir – who was hit by a single bullet and watched in horror as his classmates died – makes rude gestures in pictures he posted on his Bebo site, and boasts of drunken nights out.

The webpage of Mark Mullan, who suffered serious injuries in the shooting, states he is the “f***y who canny stop drivin in the silver hing”, is littered with foul language and features images of him with his new tattoo on his back.

Others boast about discovering sex. Politicians and relatives of the victims yesterday said they were shocked by the webpages.

Nancy McLaren, whose granddaughter, Megan Turner, died in the tragedy said the behaviour “brought shame” to the community.

She said: “It is insulting. They were damn lucky to come out of it and they should be making the most of it. Maybe that’s what they think they are doing, but it is in bad taste.”

“We go to the cemetery every Sunday and we nearly always meet some people who are visitors, and they come and have a wee look. I think that is lovely and I always say to them that it is nice they remember.”

“So the behaviour of these children is a real contrast to all those caring people. It’s shameful.”

MSP Elizabeth Smith, Scottish Tory spokeswoman for children, schools and skills, said: “I have to say personally I’m not happy. Some of the things that go up on these websites are very unfortunate and I don’t think they give a very good picture about the youngsters.”

“Some of them are in great bad taste and I am quite worried about that.”

“I feel embarrassed about it and I’m sure other people do too. In some cases the people are still really young and you can’t really expect them to have a sense of responsibility.”

“I’m sure that when they look back at what they have done in 10 years time they will be cringing with embarrassment.”

The Dunblane survivors were kept away from the spotlight in the aftermath of the tragedy to allow them to cope. Indeed, no photographs of any of the children have been seen in more than a decade, and the

Sick messages shame memory of classmates



INNOCENTS: Teacher Gwen Mayor's primary one class; right, survivors Stewart Weir and Mark Mullan's web pictures

social network sites give the first insight into how their lives have progressed.

Stewart Weir's Bebo page, which is a shrine to Rangers Football Club and Scotland, boasts about “gettin gassed w’ the lads”, enjoying “carry outs”, and getting in fights.

On his profile he writes: “Im stewart although im also known as weirdo i like to tink im a sound guy but i get p****d off easily nd if u p*** me off ul know about it as i start gettin smart just ask graeme.”

Among the blogs on his site is a list of 23 best chat-up lines – but he is still single. His pictures include images of him gesturing with one finger, and posing in London as a “Scottish



terrorist” with a scarf around his face.

It is a far cry from the image of the smiling boy in the back row of Gwen Mayor's class.

The social network site of Mark Mullan is equally eloquent as he states he is “up fur anyhin”. On his biography he asks to be called “God” and says he lives “fur the weekend, that sounds so sad but am 18 so suck ma b*ws.”

He adds: “U’ll find one in Dunblane on a friday or saturday night staggerin about down the street or the hills, consumin BUCKFAST (its just good). If u dinny drink till u drop ur no drinkin.”

Mullan was named player of the year by Bannockburn Ama-

teurs youth football team. He suffered major abdominal and pelvic injuries in the shooting.

In the days following the tragedy his late father, Jim, said relatives were worried the youngster might suffer from long term effects. Speaking in October 1996, he said: “He’s trying to forget which is fine, but isn’t fine, if you understand. He needs treatment but not in a dramatic way.”

Mrs McLaren said yesterday she would consider confronting the survivors involved.

She added: “Can it really be genuinely these same young people? I think it is totally out of order to put something like that on the Internet. It is a bit nasty really.”

Police warn school bullies

SCHOOL pupils have been warned they could be prosecuted for “cyber bullying” teachers on the Internet.

Teaching unions are growing concerned at the alarming rise in offensive and threatening postings about staff.

Now police are warning they will investigate any child using social network sites, such as Bebo, Facebook and Rate My Teachers, to abuse teachers.

The warning comes less than two years after a pupil in Aberdeenshire was fined in court for urging classmates to “kick the hell out of” their teacher.

Figures show more than 60 per cent of teachers have already been at the centre of “digital abuse”.

Officials at the teaching union NASUWT said cyber bullying is now so prevalent it is having a “devastating effect” on the health, well-being, confidence and self-esteem of staff.

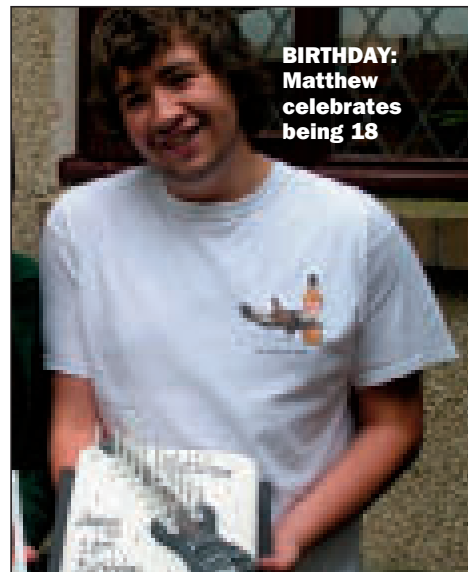
General Secretary Chris Keates called for tougher measures to prevent teachers being ridiculed on the Internet.

She said: “These sites not only provide the facility for insulting, they actively encourage such abuse of school staff.”

Teacher Support Scotland, a charity providing a helpline and counselling service, said comments now ranged from “deeply personal attacks” to questioning their professional ability.

Chief Executive Patrick Nash said: “The impact for victims can be devastating. It’s crucial that schools address the problem.”

“Far too many teachers are left very vulnerable to abuse via the web and mobile phones.”



Tragic pupils leave bad times behind

SURVIVORS of the Dunblane tragedy regularly keep in touch through email and social networking sites to update one another on their lives.

Like Stewart Weir and Mark Mullan, former Dunblane pupils Matthew Birnie, Amy Hutchison, and Robert Purves use Bebo too.

On his page, Matthew – who was shot twice and described as “extremely lucky” to survive – says he enjoys playing the guitar.

He has posted pictures of his eighteenth birthday celebrations but makes no mention of the tragedy thirteen years ago.

After his birthday he said:

“Eighteen at last! Unleashed to the world of legal drinking.”

His father, Steve, told the Scottish Sunday Express yesterday: “Matt has always been the one who likes to stand in the background. It’s just the way he is.”

“I think at his age he just wants to keep a low profile.”

“I’d say that part of the fact that they are positively moving on is that they don’t really want to go back.”

Robert Purves, who was shot in the arm, is now enjoying student life at the University of St Andrews, where he is studying for a psychology degree. On his

page, he features the catchphrase: “Sex is not the answer. Sex is a question, ‘yes’ is the answer.”

His youthful looks still cause him problems. He writes: “Need to get a new ID as the one I have looks nothing like me, and it’s a hassle to get people to believe me. I mean, seriously, would I use a picture of myself when I was younger if it was a fake?”

Amy Hutchison, who was hit in the knee and has been left with one leg shorter than the other, has a selection of pictures showing her enjoying university life with friends.

