

LIFE IN A 20TH CENTURY SCHOOL

LANGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

∞ 1906-2006 ∞



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This has been a very special year for Langside Primary, as we celebrate the school’s tradition for excellence in learning, and for all the Langsiders - parents, pupils, staff and education authority - past and present, who have done so much to make the school what it is today.

I am privileged to be the current Head Teacher of Langside, and in particular, the leader of such splendid teams of people. The joy of watching the impact of everyone’s work (parents, staff and pupils together) as our children develop and grow into confident individuals with a broad range of skills, is immense! We are all therefore deeply indebted to Andrew Downie, father of current pupils Alasdair and Eleanor, for the passion, commitment, energy, and relentless enthusiasm he has dedicated to crafting

Christine Wilson,
Head Teacher

this excellent book to commemorate our school’s centenary. Thank you Andrew. In addition to becoming a landmark in our school’s history, this book makes a further contribution to the school’s future endeavour, as all profit from sales will be dedicated to our campaign to support a new tradition for excellence in education for all in Malawi. In so doing, Langside contributes to the growing campaign to make third world poverty a thing of the past.



EDUCATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Whilst Langside School celebrates its Centenary in 2006, the story of education in the area begins a little earlier than 1906.

Before the 1870s many children received no education. For those who could not afford to pay for an education, there was a limited supply of unregulated schools. In an account of Cathcart Parish from the 1790s there was “but one schoolmaster in the parish. Indeed, there is employment only for one. In the parish school, there may be from 60 to 80 scholars, who are taught reading, English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic and Book-keeping. It is seldom that a classical education is required, and parents, whose circumstances enable them to procure it for their children, repair to Glasgow.”

When the Rev James Smith described the Parish circa 1840 there were three schools, but education in the Crossmyloof and Langside area remained unpredictable. “...There is also [a school] in the new village of Cathcart, well taught and well attended; and till of late, there was one in Crossmyloof, but, the teacher’s merits having procured him promotion, it is now closed. These three schools were each on the masters’ own adventure.”

He noted how the provision of education could depend on local enthusiasm, describing one of the Cathcart schools, possibly that

in Crossmyloof, thus: “It may be worthwhile to mention that some years ago, when the regular teacher in the last-mentioned village fell into a decline, and the place became vacant for upwards of two years, the more respectable of the inhabitants, who are mostly weavers, formed themselves into an educational society, to be managed by twelve directors, under the presidency of the minister. A certain number of the more intelligent of the villagers who were willing to undertake the task of teachers, were selected; a room was hired for the purpose, and a school opened from eight to ten o’clock at night, in which the teachers, two by two, in monthly turn, gave gratuitous instruction to whatever children were committed to their charge. The duty of the directors was principally to visit the school, and to wait upon careless parents to urge upon them the propriety of securing to their children the advantages which it offered. The plan was attended with the greatest success, and continued in active operation until rendered unnecessary by the arrival of a regular teacher.”

The Education Act of 1872 introduced compulsory education for all children aged 5 to 13 years, and the School

Boards were created to deliver it. Cathcart School Board hastily opened Crossmyloof Public School in November 1877, in temporary accommodation. In January 1879 it moved into its first proper home, in Stevenson Drive, now Deanston Drive. The school building still stands, having recently been converted into flats. The Education Act also led to the first formal training and qualifications for teachers, with the introduction of pupil teachers and teacher training colleges.

Crossmyloof Public School transferred to the new building in Albert Road (now Tantallon Road) in August 1906, and became Langside Public School. The official opening of the new school was on 3rd September 1906, and the Centenary of this event is celebrated on Monday 4th September 2006.

The following extracts are mostly from the school log books kept by the Head Teacher, which are now kept in the Mitchell Library. Rather than run chronologically, they have been divided into topics, to illustrate the issues that affected the school then, a surprising number of which have a resonance today. Some reminiscences of former pupils are also included.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SCHOOL

🌀9th Nov 1877

Crossmyloof Public School – This school was opened on 5th November 1877 in the Hall of the U.P. Church Crossmyloof by myself (J S Fleming) as Master and Miss Eliza Murray as Mistress. During the week the number of Scholars enrolled was 78. These we arranged and Classified according to their attainments; the requirements of the several standards of the Revised Code being adopted as the basis of such classification. During the week the School was visited by Mr Martin member of the School Board.

🌀13th Dec 1878

Cathcart Crossmyloof Temporary Public School Renfrew Report:

“The order and discipline are not good, and the general character of the work is not above fair. The work of the higher standards is poor, arithmetic especially being almost a complete failure.

“The premises are not very suitable for school purposes, but the new building is almost ready for occupation. My lords will look for better results next year.

“Clark must improve.”

Staff: J S Fleming 3rd Class
Eliza Murray 3rd Class
John Clark P.T. 1st year

Signed: W S Crawford. Clerk

The U.P. Church, which proved unsuitable as a school, was rebuilt in 1896 and later became St Helen’s Catholic Church.

🌀6th Jan 1879

The new school was opened today at 10am by Mr Andrew Thomson and Miss Eliza Murray. John Clark and Mary Wallace entered upon their duties as Pupil Teachers. There were present 126 pupils. Mr Thomson has to remark that the school is quite devoid of organisation and discipline, and altogether in a most wretched condition. The pupils at the same time seem to be fairly intelligent. Mr Martin, member of Cathcart School Board, Captain Stewart, a former member of Board, Rev Mr McNeil, Langside Mission Church, and Mr Fyfe of Queens Park P. School called today.

🌀8th Oct 1879

Rec^d notice from Clerk that...it was decided to begin evening classes in this school, the Board having been requested to do so by the inhabitants of Crossmyloof.

🌀16th Jan 1880

Inspectors’ Report for year ending 31st October 1879:

“This school has been removed since last inspection from inconvenient temporary premises into excellent new buildings. It is ably conducted and the results of the examinations are on the whole very satisfactory, and give good promise of future success.”

🌀3rd Nov 1881

Mr John Gilchrist, Student in E.C. Training College, Glasgow was today appointed Assistant in this School to begin work after Xmas holidays.

John Gilchrist was to become the first Head of Langside School on its opening in 1906.

🌀25th Jan.1884

Extract from Report on Queen’s Park & Crossmyloof:
“These are two of the best schools I have inspected...”

🌀19th Feb 1897

Mr Thomson left to-day to take charge of new school at Mt Florida. Mr Erskine also severed his connection with Crossmyloof going with Mr Thomson to Mt Florida.

🌀22nd Feb 1897

Commenced duties as head-master this morning.

These two entries in the log from February 1897 were the first written by Mr Gilchrist.

🌀8th Jan 1903

I submitted to the committee a report showing the enormous increase in houses that is taking place in Crossmyloof District of the Parish and the necessity for increased school accommodation in the near future. There are at present newly finished, or under construction 640 houses. Many more are to be built.

🌀23rd Sep 1904

A meeting of school committee was held this afternoon when the question of extra accommodation, particularly for the Infant Department, was discussed. It was resolved to try and secure the use of the hall of the church adjoining the school, for this purpose.

🌀28th Oct 1904

At the committee meeting yesterday it was reported that the hall adjoining the church could not be obtained for extra

accommodation. I was instructed by the committee to visit the Public Halls in the district and see if anything suitable could be got there.

🌀1st Nov 1904

I have visited Langside Halls and find none of the rooms suitable as class rooms for children.

🌀3rd Sep 1905

I have received a note from our chairman of committee stating that I and my staff are to be transferred to the new school in Albert Road when ready.

🌀4th Oct 1905

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the board subject to the modification that a thoroughly qualified teacher of Cookery and Laundry be appointed for the new School at Langside.

Copy of resolution:

“In view of Crossmyloof School being too small for the needs of the District, the Board hereby resolve that in the public interest and for reasons of efficiency and economy, the staff and scholars shall be transferred to Langside School when the

latter is ready for occupation; and further resolve that thereafter Crossmyloof School shall be closed until required or otherwise dealt with.”

🌀14th Aug 1906

Work was commenced in the new Langside School on this date. All the members of the Staff including the newly appointed ones were present. 536 pupils appeared, of these 109 were new ones, 70 of whom were for Infant Department.

The first day of teaching in the new Langside Public School.

🌀3rd Sep 1906

The public opening of the School was performed by the Right Hon Thomas Shaw K.C.M.P. Lord Advocate. The ceremony took place in the main hall of the building which was well filled by parents and invited guests. A stirring and eloquent address was delivered and special advice given both to boys and girls. Mr Shaw also addressed the senior pupils in their class rooms.

The School was officially opened by Thomas Shaw, the Lord Advocate, later 1st Baron Craigmyle. The Glasgow Herald of Thursday September 4th, 1906 contained a lengthy report of the opening ceremony.



The old Crossmyloof Public School in Deanston Drive

THE LORD-ADVOCATE IN GLASGOW OPENING OF LANGSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL SPEECH ON EDUCATION

The right Hon. Thomas Shaw, K.C., M.P., Lord-Advocate, visited Glasgow yesterday, and opened the new school erected at Langside by the Cathcart School Board. The ceremony was held in the Central Hall, and was largely attended. Dr. William Watson, chairman of the Board, presided, and he was accompanied on the platform by the Lord-Advocate, Mr Robert Laidlaw, M.P., Rev. James Fraser; Mr. R.S. Allan, chairman of Glasgow School Board, Mr. G.J. Cameron, clerk of Cathcart School Board; Mr Andrew Balfour, F.R.I.B.A., architect; and Mr. John S. Gilchrist, headmaster of Langside School.

The new school has been built on a portion of the ground formerly known as the Blue Bell Wood, Langside. It stands on a fine open rising space facing Albert Road, which was of sufficient area to permit accommodation for 1200 scholars in a two-storey building. Adjoining the school are laundry and drill-hall buildings and cookery-room, and there is ample space for playgrounds. The main school buildings consist of two floors with ten class-rooms in each, accommodating 60 scholars, and making provision in all for 1200 scholars. Being simple and uniform in plan, the working of the school should be thereby greatly facilitated. Boys' and girls' entrances are placed at either end, giving access to a spacious central hall, off which open the various class-rooms on the ground floor. Ample cloak and lavatory accommodation is provided at each entrance. A well-lighted and spacious corridor running at right angles to this hall leads to infants' entrance and cloakrooms, while it also communicates with the group of buildings connected to ground floor of school, comprising large drill-hall, cookery-room, and laundry. The entire heating of the buildings is accomplished by radiators, while the vitiated air is extracted by means of large flues in the walls near the ceilings of the class-rooms connected by shafts to two main extractors fitted with 4ft. diameter electric fans. The fresh air is drawn in from outside gratings and warmed by passing over heated radiators. The buildings, which are of red sandstone, are designed in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, and form a dignified and effective group. The school has been built from the designs and under the supervision of Mr Andrew Balfour, F.R.I.B.A., architect, Glasgow.

The Chairman, in an opening address, said that a century ago there were only 600 inhabitants in Cathcart Parish, and there was only one small school. Now they had a population of over 40,000, and educationally the parish stood as the tenth largest parish in Scotland. During the last few years the minds of the Board had been occupied with school accommodation, and now they congratulated themselves that for some time at least they would be able to supply the needs of the district. He referred to the fact that their existence as a Board had been threatened; but he thought that if a new Education Bill was introduced into Scotland they might congratulate themselves that the parish would still be an educational unit. He concluded by calling on the Lord-Advocate to open the school.

The Lord-Advocate began his address by making a touching reference to the death of Lady Campbell Bannerman, which is reported in another column. Proceeding, he congratulated all concerned in the erection of the handsome building in which they were gathered together, paying a high tribute to Mr Balfour, the architect, for the ingenious manner in which he had solved the difficulty of building on a sloping piece of ground. The school had already been open a fortnight, and there were no fewer than 850 scholars on the roll. As the accommodation was limited to 1200, he supposed that before another fortnight elapsed the Board would be considering the erection of another building. (Laughter.)

After referring in eulogistic terms to the equipment of the school, his Lordship remarked that Dr Watson was leading them a pretty dance if the expense was to go on at that rate. (Laughter.) He reminded them that when Lord Young's Act of 1872 was passed the population of that parish was 7000 souls; now it was 37,000. There were a few hundred children in those days; now there were between 5000 and 6000 pupils. Here therefore was a case in which persons seeking for a remedy for a difficult problem would have been at their wit's end. They would have said – How can we construct an organisation that will contain men who will face problems of constant and developing difficulties? Speaking as a Scotchman, he was proud of his country when he thought it had been a country with School Boards like Cathcart, that could discern the movements of the times and adapt themselves to the want of the situation. The Cathcart Board had shown intimate knowledge of the needs of the parish.

The article continues with a lengthy report of the Lord-Advocate's speech, in which he praises the Scottish education system and School Boards, and makes disparaging remarks about the English system by comparison.

In conclusion, Mr. Shaw addressed some words of advice to the pupils, and then declared the school open.

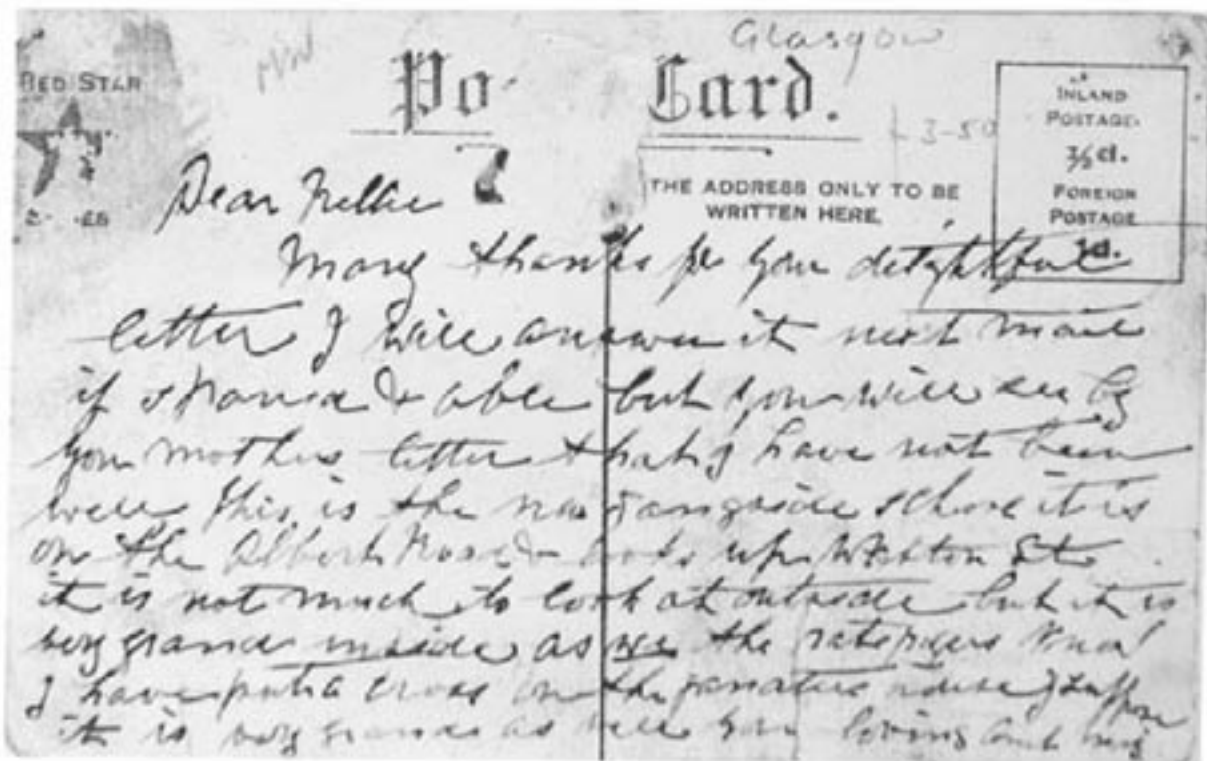
Mr. Andrew Balfour, the architect for the school, presented the Lord-Advocate with a gold key, and after the usual votes of thanks had been bestowed, the proceedings terminated.

Lady Campbell Bannerman was the wife of the Glasgow born Liberal British Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.

And thus began the first hundred years of Langside School. The following pages give a little insight into how life in the school in its early years compares with today.

Early class
photos, from
1906 (above)
and 1918
(below)





Not everyone was so impressed, as this 1906 postcard illustrates. It reads: "This is the new Langside School. It is on the Albert Road and looks up Walton St. It is not much to look at outside but it is very grand inside, as we the ratepayers know."

SCHOOL REPORTS

4th Feb 1907

Report 31st Jan 1907:

"The numbers in attendance have largely increased since the opening of the school, and in all the Divisions the work is being prosecuted with vigour, intelligence and praiseworthy success."

13th Jan 1908

Summary of Inspectors' Report:

"Of the children that entered school for the first time this session, 34 were over six years of age. As the majority of these had received no instruction at home there appears to be some reason for a more vigorous enforcement of the compulsory clauses of the Education Acts. The number of children in the Infant Division might be materially reduced."

"The work of the school is carried on in all departments with praiseworthy vigour and success. Attendance seems to be more regular in certain classes than others, and the percentage of average attendance has declined."

"It is hoped that provision will soon be made for some form of Manual Instruction in connection with the Supplementary Course (Boys' section). The girls receive efficient instruction in Cookery and Laundry work."

21st Dec 1908

Summary of Inspectors' Report:

"While no small part of the work of the Senior Division is distinctly good, one or two points of importance in regard to the teaching of Practical Geometry, Nature Knowledge and History require attention. The qualifying class shows very good advantage in Reading, Composition and Arithmetic and through out the Division, Drawing, including shading is well taught. Under oral examination the pupils of Senior II(b) are somewhat inert and unresponsive."

"The Infant Department maintains its reputation for very satisfactory work, but the large proportion of children over 7 years of age at the commencement of the session renders it difficult to recommend the highest grant. In future years this condition of things, for which the teachers are not responsible, may be considered a deficit in organisation, and treated accordingly. The large number of pupils over 12 years of age in the Senior Division who have not yet reached the Supplementary Course is also noted in this connection."

School Staff 1907-08 consisted of:

13 teachers, including the Head

7 teachers in the Infant Department

Grant earned £1009.10.9 equal to £1.4.83/4 per head.

Average attendance for the year 816.

The annual grant to the school was calculated on the average number of children attending, hence the importance placed on attendance by the Head, evident throughout the log books. However funding was cut for pupils too old for their class (payment by results?), and there was much disgruntlement in the logs about the number of pupils entering school at a late age, usually from outside the Parish. This problem was reflected again the next year.

1st Feb 1911

Report: "Attention is particularly directed to the question of attendance in connection with this School. The record for the past year is not satisfactory and suggests the necessity for the continuance of the more vigorous enforcement of the Compulsory Clauses. It is observed that a number of the pupils over 12 years of age have attended badly. This matter should be brought to the notice of the Board's Attendance Officer."

"The increased grant has been allowed with hesitation on account of the unusually large proportion of pupils over 7 years of age in the Infant Department."

"Amount of Grant £1187.7.3 on an average attendance of 938."

26th Nov 1914

Report: "The general condition of the school is very satisfactory, and reflects the greatest credit on the zeal and efficiency of the staff...The Infant Department under the supervision of the zealous headmistress continues to make a very satisfactory appearance. Payment of the increased grants for merit will again be recommended."

4th Jan 1933

Report: "There are at present six vacant rooms in these very attractive modern premises. The present depression is not unduly affecting the 678 pupils on the roll, so that the conditions are in every way conducive to good work in the classroom..."

27th Jun 1935

Parents' Day. An exhibition of School Work was held today followed by a two hours' demonstration in the Gymnasium of all School Activities. The display was greatly appreciated by about three hundred parents.

5th Jan 1939

Report: "For a diminishing roll of 493 ample and comfortable accommodation is provided. Most of the children come from good homes, so that the number in receipt of free clothing and milk is small..."

ATTENDANCE

🌀5th Nov 1906

The attendance is very poor, especially in the Inf. Dep., where about 100 children are absent. Colds form the chief cause of absence. Attendance 797.

🌀26th Dec 1906

Attendance very poor, only 641 present.

🌀29th Jun 1907

Mr John L Whyte J.P., member of the board, presented a pupil (Sam O’Hara) with a watch for five years perfect attendance.

🌀10th Sep 1907

Total number attending school 1054
5-7 years 224
Above 7 years 830

🌀7th Jan 1908

The attendance since the new year has been very poor, many classes having fully 20% of absentees. Illness largely accounts for this – measles, whooping cough, mumps and colds being the chief causes of absence.

🌀28th Jan 1908

The attendance has fallen to 738 on account of a very severe snow storm and boisterous weather.

🌀7th Sep 1908

928 children present this morning, 1032 on roll.

🌀29th Dec 1908

A severe snowstorm is raging today accompanied by a biting east wind. The attendance has fallen to 670.

🌀6th Oct 1910

The attendance has reached 1032 which is about 94% of our roll.

On 9th Oct 1911 the attendance reached an all time record 1070 pupils present out of 1100 on the roll, despite a measles outbreak.
Crossmyloof School must have re-opened at some point. It closed again in the summer of 1922, teachers and 98 pupils transferring to Langside. The Langside roll was 945 that year. It subsequently gradually fell. The headmaster appeared not to approve of his new employers, when Cathcart School Board was replaced by Glasgow Education Authority c.1920.

🌀8th Jan 1923

I have received notice today from the Authority that our five infant classes are to be made into four and a teacher relieved so that she may be transferred to another school. This is the third time since coming under the authority that changes of this nature have had to be made by their orders. It by no means leads to Educational efficiency

DISCIPLINE

🌀9th Oct 1879

A case of theft in Junior Department occurred to-day. The boy Robert B., through want of proper supervision at home, the mother being dead, and father at work, is rapidly becoming a nuisance to the neighbourhood. At the earnest solicitation of the father the case was not reported to the police, in order to give the boy another chance. The father was recommended to put him into an industrial school in order to have him properly looked after.

🌀23rd Feb 1883

Rec^d a very impertinent letter from Mr M. about his daughter Jemima having been punished. Having investigated the matter, found that the girl’s story was false in nearly every item. The correct version was given as a simple statement, without any reference to the impertinence.

🌀26th Feb 1883

Rec^d a lengthy document from Mr M., which I did not read, but consigned to the flames, after giving it to my assistant to read, in order to ascertain if there was any apology. Mr Gilchrist having read it said that the language was of the most impertinent and

brutal description. I advised the withdrawal of his children if he was dissatisfied, and intimated that any further communication would be put in the fire unread.

🌀28th Feb 1883

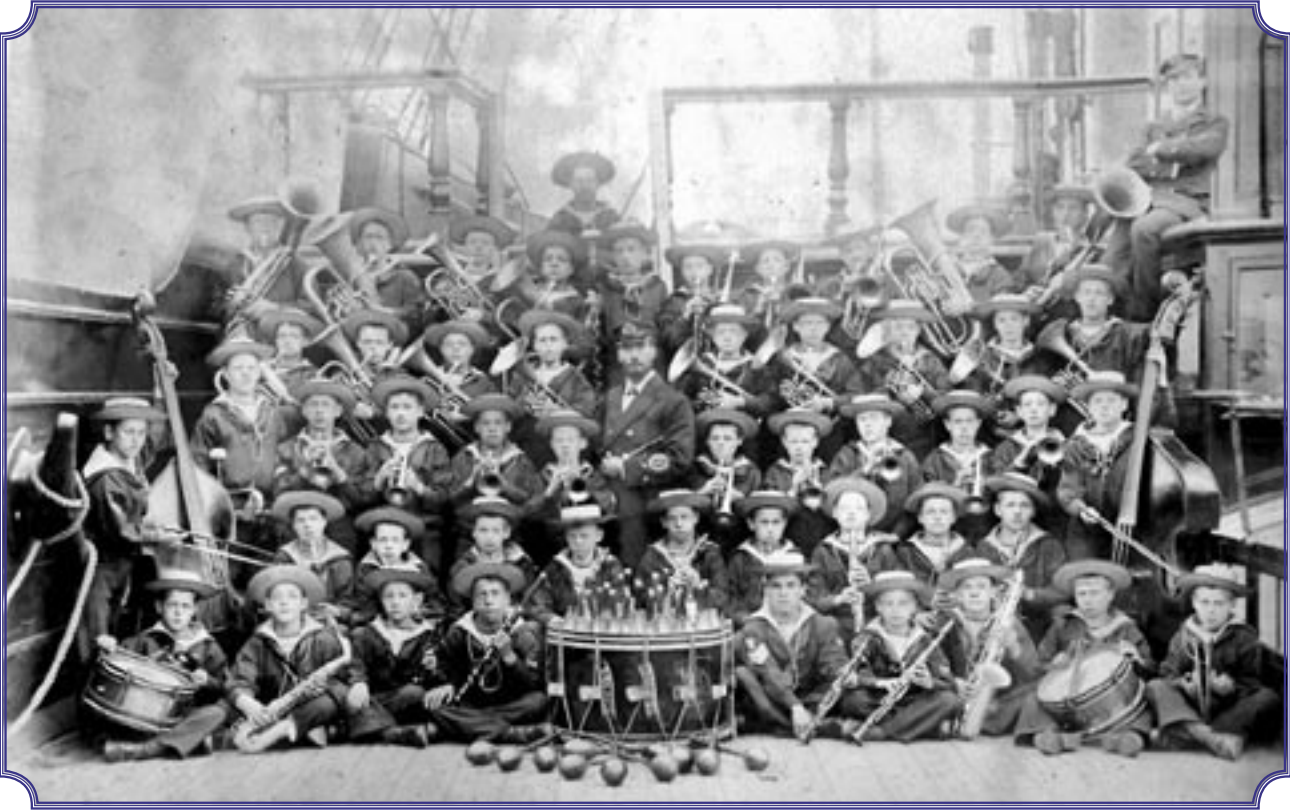
Mr M.’s family still attending, and no further annoyance has been given by him, further than a visit to my house on Monday eve, when I was from home. He was told by Mrs Thomson that I did everything in connection with the school at the school house. This is, I am glad to say, a case of rare occurrence.

Mr M. subsequently complained to the School Board, but unsuccessfully, the Board failing to agree that they should believe the testimony of a 10 year old over the signed statements of five of the teaching staff.

🌀30th Nov 1898

Mr Ferguson has to-day informed me that he has been appointed Head-master of the Training Ship “Empress”. His duties are to begin on the 3rd January 1899.

The “Empress”, the former HMS Revenge, was the second training ship moored on the Clyde and run by the Clyde Industrial Training Ship Association. It was sold for scrap in 1923.



The band of the training ship “Empress’

HOLIDAYS

🌀28th Jun 1907

The School was closed for the Summer Holidays on this date. The prizes were distributed by Messrs McNeill Frazer and John L Whyte members of the Board. The distribution took place in the Gymnasium and there were many parents present. Afterwards the Staff met in the cookery room and presented Mr Donald Watson with several handsome volumes of Scott and Dickens, also a letter sachet. The school reopens on 2nd Sept.

🌀25th Dec 1911

Christmas Day – school open – attendance 772.

Christmas Day opening was unusual. School holidays are illustrated by the 1916 dates:

Christmas Day	1 day	
Dec 29 – Jan 8	5 days	New Year
Apr 5 – Apr 16	6 days	Easter
May 23	1 day	Kings Birthday
Jun 29 – Sep 3	45 days	Summer

🌀12th Nov 1920

The Authority has sent notice that the Christmas and New Year Holidays are to extend from the afternoon of Friday 24th Dec to the morning of Monday 10th January.

🌀10th Apr 1900

Several of the lady teachers have been complaining of losing money from their jackets in the private rooms. A watch was set and the guilty party found to be a boy in the senior class – Gilbert H., 5 Battlefield Crescent, Langside. His parents are most respectable, and I have advised them to withdraw the boy from Crossmyloof School, in order to save public disgrace. This has been done.

🌀11th Apr 1900

I have a note from Mr H., thanking me for considering their feelings, and intimating the withdrawal of the boy.

🌀20th Dec 1906

I was at the Sheriff Court today. Jas S. Crossmyloof Buildings was before Sheriff for irregular attendance. His mother did not appear and case was postponed.

🌀24th Dec 1906

S.'s mother was today fined at the Sheriff Court in 7/6 or five days imprisonment. Seven days were allowed to pay the fine.

🌀6th Feb 1907

The parents of Liz G., Jas S., Sarah D. and Hector & Robert C. were before the Board on Monday evening on account of the irregularity of their children. All with the exception of G. are to be prosecuted before the Sheriff should the attendance not improve.

🌀19th Apr 1907

I was at the J.P. Court in the city today. The boy S. was again the cause. His mother appeared, and an attendance order was passed.



A class from the late 1920s

🌀4th Jun 1907

I have had to attend the J.P. Court on account of the boy S. S.'s case was postponed for a week, to see if he could be placed in an industrial school.

🌀7th Jan 1908

Hector C. a pupil in Senior III was yesterday taken to Rose St Industrial School. He was on the roll here for about eighteen months, and from the first was a notorious truant. The home circumstances of the boy were of the worst.

Rose St is now Florence St, in the Gorbals.

🌀5th Nov 1909

At the J.P Court today W., 2 Wellroad Place was fined 10/6 for neglecting the education of his son Andrew. This is the second conviction.

🌀11th Jan 1911

At a J.P. Court held on 30th Dec 1910 John W., a pupil in Jun I class was sent to the Training Ship for a number of years on account of his truancy and general bad behaviour.

🌀17th Feb 1911

Before Sheriff Boyd today. Andrew W., 22 Baker Street Crossmyloof was summoned for neglecting the education of his boy Willie. Attendance Orders had been passed on two previous occasions. The Sheriff ordered the boy to be detained on the Training Ship till he was 16 years of age. Parents to contribute 1/6 per week towards his upkeep.

1/6 per week (1 shilling & sixpence) is about £5 per week now.

FIRM BUT FAIR

For those fortunate to have never encountered a tawse, it is a leather strap used for corporal punishment. It was only banned in state schools in 1986, and completely in 1998. Over one hundred years earlier, in late 1897, there are several entries regarding parents' complaints about the excessive use of the tawse by Miss McClure, who was warned by Mr Gilchrist on several occasions. This came to a head in December.

🌀7th Dec 1897

A meeting of the school committee...
The meeting was specially convened to consider my complaint about Miss McClure's treatment of the children in her class and the numerous complaints that had been received from parents by me. The various entries in the log book were considered and after hearing Miss McClure's statements, and the display of temper which she showed while under examination, the committee had no hesitation in deciding to ask for her resignation. It was agreed to give her a month's salary in advance in place of working her notice. After some hesitation she wrote out her resignation.

Another example of indiscipline amongst the children, where the outcome was not as one might have predicted:

🌀11th Oct 1912

Mr Baxter who for some time has had charge of the boys at their lines in the playground has got into serious disagreement

with the senior pupils. This culminated yesterday in a general disregard of his authority, - shouting and whistling taking place in the lines. Mr Baxter lost control of his temper and struck one of the senior boys, newly come to school. The boys of the Supplementary Class complained to me, and from them I obtained the above particulars. Mr Baxter roundly blamed the Supplementary boys as being the cause of the breach, but this morning handed me the names of two boys not in the Supplementary Class who were accused of shouting.

I took this opportunity of reprimanding Mr B for his action in the playground and also pointed out to him that he was probably



A collection of tawse used in Scottish Schools

more to blame than the boys, owing to his treatment of the latter, and I also let him know that I did not intend to punish any of the boys, the uproar being general in all the senior classes. Several of the boys I reprimanded individually in my room, and I also spoke to the boys of each class and pointed out the serious nature of the offence they had committed.

Mr Smith now assists in the playground.

POVERTY

🌀2nd July 1910

Joseph G. has been granted exemption [from school] by the School Board. He is 13 9/12 years of age and is in class Sen I. His father is blind and the family is in very poor circumstances.

THE LAW

New laws were intended to prevent the abuse of children through employment:

🌀 24th Mar 1908

I sent off a statement to the Board today giving particulars of the number of children employed mornings and evenings and pointing out certain infringements of the Board's Bye Laws under the Employment of Children Act 1903.

🌀 8th Apr 1908

I have sent off to the Clerk a Return for the Board of the number of children violating the Bye-Laws of the Board in connection with the Employment of Children Act 1903. From the list we find there are 13 boys and girls attending this school violating these bye-laws. The physical condition of some of these children is most pitiful. I have drawn the personal attention of several members of the Board to this matter.

LIFE AS A TEACHER

🌀 4th May 1910

On my recommendation the Board has granted Miss McDonald ten pounds of an increase to her salary, making it now £160.

Miss McDonald was Head Teacher of the Infant Division. Her salary equates to about £11,000 now.

🌀 19th Mar 1913

Mr McNab, one of our teachers, who is to be married tomorrow, has been presented with a Rosewood timepiece and ornaments by the members of the Staff. Today his pupils gave him a handsome umbrella in honour of the event.

Female teachers, on the other hand, were required to resign from the school when they were to be married.

🌀 1st Sep 1914

During the holidays Miss Wiseman sent in her resignation. She was married towards the end of August.

🌀 30th Jun 1915

Miss Baird, who has been on the Staff since the opening of this school (Aug 1906) left today as she proposes marriage. She has been an excellent teacher, painstaking and attentive to her duty, and

well liked by teachers and pupils. Before leaving she was presented with a case of knives and forks by the Staff, and several useful articles from the pupils.

The difficulties of war brought about a change in attitude:

🌀 23rd Nov 1916

Miss Forsyth has sent word to the Board that she is about to be married to Mr Smith, a member of the staff here, and at present on Military Service. She asks the Board to allow her to remain on the staff under the exceptional circumstances.

Class from May 1948



🌀 1st Dec 1916

Miss McLean has told me that she is sending in her resignation to the Board as she is about to be married. This is the fourth notice of marriage within the last two months among members of the staff.

🌀 6th Dec 1916

The Board has agreed to retain the services of Misses Robertson and Forsyth on the Staff. These ladies are about to be married, and the young men are on active service.

🌀 13th Apr 1923

Today I retired from the Headmastership of Langside School.

Bailie McNab a member of the Glasgow Education Authority came out in the afternoon and addressed the children in the Central Hall. He also introduced the new Headmaster. The pupils were afterwards dismissed for the day.

🌀 28th Sep 1923

Scholars arranged in hall at 4pm and portrait of Mr John S Gilchrist presented by Mr James Wright; this portrait to be hung up in school hall by direction of Ed. Auth.

Thus departed Mr Gilchrist, the first head teacher of Langside. A newspaper article of the time noted his long career thus:

27 YEARS A HEADMASTER GLASGOW MAN'S LONG SERVICE

Mr. John S. Gilchrist, F.E.I.S., who retires from service of the Glasgow Educational Authority this month, has been a headmaster for 27 years, at first in Crossmyloof School, and latterly in Langside School.

In his younger days Mr. Gilchrist was a noted footballer. He played for Glasgow Thistle for about ten seasons, and was president of Glasgow Football Association in 1892-93.

Records suggest he also played for Partick Thistle, scoring an impressive 12 goals in 9 appearances for them in the 1892-93 season.



I remember...Teachers

“Miss Davie was our teacher and one I remember with great affection for herself and her influence on my life and hopefully others.

Miss Davie drew our attention to the quality of the architecture of our school. I must say as a nine year old I had not noticed nor considered any building as more than a functional object.

This awareness I found inspirational and it led to my career as a teacher of art.”

A Gardner, c1936

“We loved being in Miss Taylor’s class as we had films once a week, & as she was in charge of films, we had to stay till the films were rewound which was a great delight to us all, especially when divers went backwards on to the diving board.”

Bunty Mulholland, c1932

“There was a teacher who had been brought back due to war shortages called ‘Baldy’ Baxter. He had obviously not a hair on his head and his eyesight was very poor. His favourite phrase was ‘I’ve got the tawse in my pocket’ which he used frequently but often missed, due to his eyesight. There was much sign language humour behind his back.”

Jack Dougan, c1945



“I liked Miss Cameron very much, her word was law, and woe betide you if you were not in bed by 7 o’clock – she would know!

My memory of Miss Weir is of someone tall and thin with white hair who wore a lot of black and had long line cardigans with two pockets where she kept her hankies. She was very fussy about her hankies and always folded them exactly back to shape after she had used them.”

Kathleen Nisbett, c1942

“Mr Faulds should go down in history I think for creating the Langside boys football team.”

James Manderson, c1942

Mr Faulds & the Langside Boys Football Team in May 1948. Mr Tulloch, the Head Teacher, is on the left.

“I have vivid memories of the dreaded Miss Weir; if you could not produce a clean handkerchief when entering her class you were sent home to get one, and if you used the said handkerchief to blow your nose, you were sent out to ‘wash your hands, you disgusting child’. There were no towels in the toilet so you stood in front of the class until your hands were dry! Happy days.”

Douglas Meikle, c1940

“Miss Disher was one of these teachers who didn’t just teach the curriculum, but went further if the opportunity presented, so I got a flying start in secondary school by having been introduced to the wonders of Algebra and Calculus before I started at Shawlands Senior secondary.”

Gilmour Kerr, c1942, who later put those maths skills to good use working on the Space Shuttle’s robotic arm

“Miss Disher regularly held sessions in place of PT when we learned how to waltz as well as the military two step and the valetta.”

James Manderson, c1942



Mr Faulds with his class, 1950.

IN CLASS

26th May 1913

The Qualifying Exam was held this afternoon. Fifty one pupils were presented, 26 from Mr Bicket's class and 25 from Mr Smith's. All passed. The average age was Mr Smith's 13 ³/₁₂, Mr Bicket's class 12 ⁷/₁₂.

19th Jun 1913

The children of the Infant Department gave an entertainment in the Hall this evening. The principal item was a Kinderspiel composed by Miss Jessie Robertson, a member of the staff. The hall was well filled and the performance very successful.

5th Jan 1914

Eleven pupils who passed the Qualifying Exam in Dec 1913 have gone to HG Schools, also two from Supp Class, thirteen in all. Of these nine have gone to Queen's Park, three to Hutcheson's and one to Allan Glen's.

The Qualifying Examination became better known later as the 11 Plus, and was a requirement to enter a Higher Grade School.

23rd Dec 1914

We had fire drill in school this morning. All the pupils were cleared out in 1min 40sec.

In 1936 the entire school was cleared in an impressive one minute.

“Everything was on a vast scale – the hall where we gathered after the bell rang – the loud music thumped out on the piano to get us lined up & marching into our classrooms, and the sheer size of the doors with brass handles, which were very heavy to push open.

There was a plump ginger-haired girl in my class who came up to me on my very first day in the playground, saying ‘Be my neebur’. She was quite threatening, so I nodded, not having a clue what she meant. Evidently, I found out later when I understood the language, that this was an honour to be asked by her, to be her neighbour. It also made me her slave, although I was not told these details at the time. Consequently, when I didn't conform to her wishes, she then became a bully. This lasted some time, until the school was closed during the bombing of Glasgow.

I was quite good at drawing & well remember copying the Glasgow Coat of Arms in chalk from a book onto the blackboard, when we were taught the verse about the bird, tree, fish and bell.”

Marjorie Brown, c1938

“A weekly medal was presented to a deserving pupil who wore it each day to school. With some modesty, I admit to winning it quite often and on each occasion my mother provided a fresh piece of ribbon.”

Jess Turpie, c1934

“We moved house in 1946 so I was never to know the pleasure of being in one of the upstairs rooms. I wonder what tales I would have to tell if I had ever made it to there.”

Kathleen Nisbet, c1942

“There was a piano in the centre [of the central hall] and a talented pupil or teacher played there while the pupils filed into their classrooms.”

Jack Dougan, c1945

“If you were there - you will remember! Probably because of post-war tendencies, we were marched to our classes to the accompaniment of stirring march tunes. Every time I hear one nowadays, I'm instantly stepping back to whichever part of the building our classrooms were. As children, we took it for granted. I haven't ever met anyone from any other schools to be given this special inspiration!!”

Valerie Hendry, c1955

“I used to play piano for the pupils marching into the school from their line-up in the playground. The piano was situated upstairs on the balcony (south side of the school).”

Jean Hamilton, 1951

“All the classes marched into school to piano accompaniment. The piano was in the main hall and the pianist had to play suitable marching music till all classes had been reached. It was a great honour to be picked to play, and I had the honour to play. A terrifying experience.”

Bunty Mulholland, c1932

“Elizabeth Luke took piano lessons and I remember the day I stood beside the piano in the middle of the hall clapping in time to her playing while everyone marched from their classrooms to go to the cloakrooms to go out to play.”

Kathleen Nisbett, c1942

“The classrooms were set out in rows of wooden seats and desks. The desks had lids and we kept our brown work jotter in them. We used to get homework every night except Friday. If you were clever you sat in the front row of the class and the seats were numbered 1-30, 1 being the cleverest person and 30 being the least cleverest person.”

Beth Drydens, c1975



Langside's first Head Teacher, Mr Gilchrist, with class, c1920.

I remember...Refreshments

The temperature of the free school milk seems one of the strongest memories!

“The boys would put the crate on the floor under the radiator so it did not always taste very nice.”

Kathleen Nisbett, c1942

“School dinners were horrible. Milk available if you wanted it before playtime – warm as it always sat beside the radiator.”

Mrs Lennon, c1970

“We used to get a triangle carton of milk every morning and if the crate was left next to the radiator, the milk was horrible.”

Beth Drydens, c1975

“Each morning we received free school milk in little 1/3 pint bottles. These in winter were placed on the spaces on top of the central heating radiators to ‘take the chill off’. It is not difficult to imagine how many of these were broken.”

Jack Dougan, 1945

“On the cold mornings mothers used to come to the school gates at the morning interval with a hot drink, tea, Oxo, Bovril, in a little china jug...No tea ever tasted as good as that morning cuppa.”

Bunty Mulholland, c1932

I remember...Classmates

One of Langside’s more famous pupils is the folk rock guitarist, John Martyn.

“He was called Ian MacGeachy then and always wore a bow tie. Definitely not the right image for a future rock star.”

John Galt, c1955

I remember...the Playgrounds

“I remember the playgrounds. The higher playground always had 3-4 separate games of football going on and the keepers had to keep switching.”

John Warren, c1967

“I remember with a certain amount of pride the day our class were granted permission to use the upper playground legally, we considered ourselves to be in the big boys league; we were elite, so to speak.”

Douglas Meikle, c1940

“I remember my very first day...At mid-morning recess, we were released into the infant playground, which was part of the girl’s playground.

My sister, Ellen, who is my senior by three and a half years, saw me there and informed me that I was in the wrong playground, that the boys playground was at the other end of the school, so she escorted me out to the street, and round to the boys playground.

Of course, when the call was made to line up to go back into the school, there was no line for my class. I have taken my sister’s opinions with a grain of salt ever since!”

Gilmour Kerr, c1942

“I remember the feeling of ‘high status’ when I was allowed up into the high playground; taking part in one of the footie matches where if you were in goals you shared the goal area with about 3 other keepers. Four matches going on at the same time. Also the daring forays over the fence into the girls playground, watching you didn’t catch your trouser leg at the top of the fence!”

Alan Hughes, c1972

PHONICS

One hundred years ago they were arguing about the benefits of teaching reading by Phonics. And still they argue...

🌀 4th Feb 1907

Report 31st Jan 1907:

“The phonic system of teaching to read, which has been introduced into the Infant Department has been attended with very good results.”

🌀 16th Sep 1907

I had a meeting with my staff this afternoon re - Phonic System and the necessity for all the staff becoming familiar with it.

🌀 26th Sep 1907

Eleven members of the staff here – including self – have agreed to take special lessons on the Phonetic System of teaching reading.

HEALTH

🌀 8th Feb 1901

I have to-day written to several parents drawing their attention to the cigarette smoking of their boys, and asking their co-operation in trying to put down the evil.

🌀 7th Feb 1911

Gave out syllabus on Temperance to the Staff today with instructions that these lessons are to be given during the month of June each year. This was the recommendation of the Board.

🌀 4th Jun 1926

On 2nd June at midday I sent Bella W. (S III) home on a/c of offensive odour about her which made it impossible to have her in school.

A class from 1977



DISEASE

🌀 28th Feb 1907

A great number of the infants are off suffering from whooping cough. A case of Scarlet Fever was reported on Monday 25th Inst.

The winter of 1907-08 was particularly difficult for the school:

🌀 2nd Dec 1907

Several cases of measles have been reported last week. This morning I have heard of three cases. Isolated cases of Scarlet Fever are also cropping up.

🌀 3rd Dec 1907

There are now about twenty cases of measles reported today, Six of these are from Miss Mary Robertson's class.

🌀 6th Dec 1907

I have today received notice from the Clerk that the medical officer of health had ordered the Infant Department and also the classes corresponding to Junior III to be closed for three weeks. Miss Mary Robertson has now thirteen cases of measles in her class (Junior III(a)).

🌀 13th Dec 1907

Several fresh cases of measles reported. The attendance is falling considerably. Average 460.

🌀 17th Dec 1907

The measles epidemic is still making havoc with our attendance.

🌀 20th Dec 1907

...owing to the continued epidemic of measles in the Parish, the Medical Officer of Health ... has decided that all the Schools should be closed from today until 13th January.

🌀 22nd Jan 1908

There are about 80 children absent through measles. Whooping Cough has also broken out; the janitor having found 10 cases in his visits.

🌀 19th May 1908

Since the New Year Holidays we have not been free from measles. In fact we have been subject to a second outbreak and I am afraid we are now nearing a third.

🌀 17th Dec 1909

We now have 17 cases of measles, necessitating the absence of about 45 children. Nearly all are from the Woodville Gardens district.

🌀 30th Dec 1909

Our measles cases now number about 60. The attendance has fallen to 770.

🌀 23rd Mar 1911

A few cases of Diphtheria (five in all) have been reported during the past four or five weeks. All of these children are from room 2. I have ordered rooms 1 & 2 to be thoroughly washed out and disinfected.

In November measles returns with a vengeance. The outbreak affected about 120 pupils. Only a month earlier the school attendance had reached a record 1070.

🌀 7th Nov 1911

In Miss MacKay's class there are only seven pupils present out of a roll of 54.

🌀 27th Nov 1911

The epidemic of measles is now nearly over. We have not had a new case since 15th Nov. The children are now returning to school. We are having considerable trouble with some parents who are very reluctant to send their children back. In these cases a medical certificate is being demanded.

🌀 23rd May 1912

Mumps have developed in the Infant Department. Several children were sent home yesterday suffering from swollen glands.

This mumps epidemic went on to affect 205 pupils.

🌀 20th Nov 1912

We have 15 cases of Chicken Pox, all from Miss MacKay's class.

🌀 26th Jun 1913

During the epidemic of Chickenpox and German measles we have had 146 cases notified.

🌀5th Nov 1914

The number of attendances lost through infectious disease during last school year was 11,267, equal to an average of 28 pupils.
Pupils were not the only ones to get ill. Teachers’ absence from work was regularly and dutifully recorded in the logs. Even the head teacher was not immune.

🌀1st Jun 1909

Resumed duty to-day after an absence of five weeks. Anaemia was the cause.
Other causes of teacher absence included bilious attacks, influenza, verge of a nervous breakdown, gastric catarrh, swollen face and tonsillitis.

DEATH

Meningitis amongst school children was as feared then as it is now:

🌀19th Feb 1907

The sanitary inspector has reported a case of Cerebro Spinal Fever – that of Flora T. residing at 4 Millar Street.

🌀21st Feb 1907

Annie McD., 6 years of age, who lived with the above Flora T., died on Wednesday morning from Cerebro Spinal Fever. McD. was an orphan and cousin of T.’s. The two girls slept together and McD. is supposed to have contracted the disease from T.

🌀22nd Feb 1907

The attendance has fallen to 700 (Friday). The two deaths have caused quite a scare amongst the parents.

🌀6th Jan 1908

I was away from school part of this afternoon attending the funeral of Mr Thomson, formerly Head-Master of Crossmyloof Public School and latterly, until his retiral from active duty Head Master of Mt Florida School. I was an assistant under him for about fifteen years.

🌀29th Nov 1912

Miss Murray teacher of Pianoforte died with startling suddenness yesterday afternoon. She had gone into town from school and in a city warehouse died. Heart failure was the cause.

🌀2nd Dec 1912

Miss Murray was on the staff of Crossmyloof and Langside Schools for 28 years.

The two attendances were run together and the classes dismissed at 1pm on account of Miss Murray’s funeral.

This was most likely Eliza Murray, the deputy head of Crossmyloof Public School when it opened, under Mr Thomson.

🌀8th Nov 1920

A parent (Mr M.) informed me this morning that his daughter Primrose M. died in Darnley Hospital on Saturday evening 6th inst of Scarlet Fever. She was at school on Thursday 4th inst.

The influenza pandemic of late 1918 caused much sickness and absence in the school, but surprisingly little serious illness, given the enormous devastation it caused worldwide. Only one death is recorded in the logs, and that was in 1922.

🌀8th Feb 1922

Mr McNab a member of our staff died on the 6th inst from the after effects of influenza. He was an excellent teacher, most obliging and a faithful colleague. I shall miss his services very much. He had been almost nineteen years a colleague of mine.

ROADS AND OTHER DANGERS

🌀29th Jan 1929

Got intimation of the death of John P. (aged 6). Killed by a motor bus while crossing Kilmarnock Road.

🌀11th Feb 1930

Owing to an accident on Friday 7th in which a boy, Osborne B. in Inf I was knocked down and the loss of a leg, by amputation, threatened, I sent a letter requesting police supervision of the Kilmarnock Rd – Miller St Crossing.

🌀10th Jun 1963

Tragic news today. Two boys, both in Primary 3, were drowned in the Cart on Friday 7th June at 8.30pm. Today a P1 boy was killed by a motor on his way back to school after lunch.

🌀18th Apr 1978

Stray dog bit four boys in the playground at 9am. Two boys were taken home for treatment, one boy was taken to hospital by mother, and the fourth boy was taken to hospital by a School Auxilliary. The dog was taken to Pollokshaws Police Station to be uplifted by officers from the Dog and Cat Home.

CHARITY

🌀9th May 1902

The children this week gathered 35/- for the Ibrox Park Disaster Relief Fund. This was sent to the Glasgow Evening News Fund and duly acknowledged.

Twenty six died when a stand collapsed at a Scotland v England match on 5th April.

🌀28th Dec 1906

The children made a collection for the hospitals today. The sum obtained was from the Infants 16/-, from the rest of the school £2.15.1/-.

The money was distributed as follows:

Cripple Children’s League	16/-
Victoria Infirmary	£1-1-0
Sick Childrens Hospital	£1-15-0

🌀16th Apr 1908

The children have this week made a collection for the hospitals. The amount gathered has been £5.16.6. This we have divided between the Victoria Infirmary and the Sick Children’s Hospital, the former receiving £3.3.0 and the latter £2.13.6.

PLUMBING & HEATING

🌀17th Jan 1881

Temperature very low to-day. The thermometer in class-room being below the freezing point.

🌀24th Jan 1907

The temperature is extremely cold, and we have had the utmost difficulty in obtaining sufficient heat. In a few of the rooms the temperature was below 40° [4°C] at the opening of the school this morning.

🌀7th Feb 1907

One of the water pipes in infant boys urinal has burst this morning.

🌀8th Feb 1907

Another burst pipe was discovered last night.

🌀18th Nov 1909

As it is impossible to get the temperature above 50° in several of our class rooms I have written to the Board complaining about the matter.

🌀26th Jan 1910

The heating was very bad, some of the rooms only registering 40°. I am of the opinion that bad stoking is the cause of this.

TECHNOLOGY

🌀 20th Oct 1910

A sewing machine was today received for use in the school, especially the Supplementary Classes.

🌀 12th Feb 1915

A new gas cooker has been placed in the cookery room by the Glasgow Corporation, free of charge.

🌀 15th May 1931

A wireless set was erected in school today and put in the library as a trial.

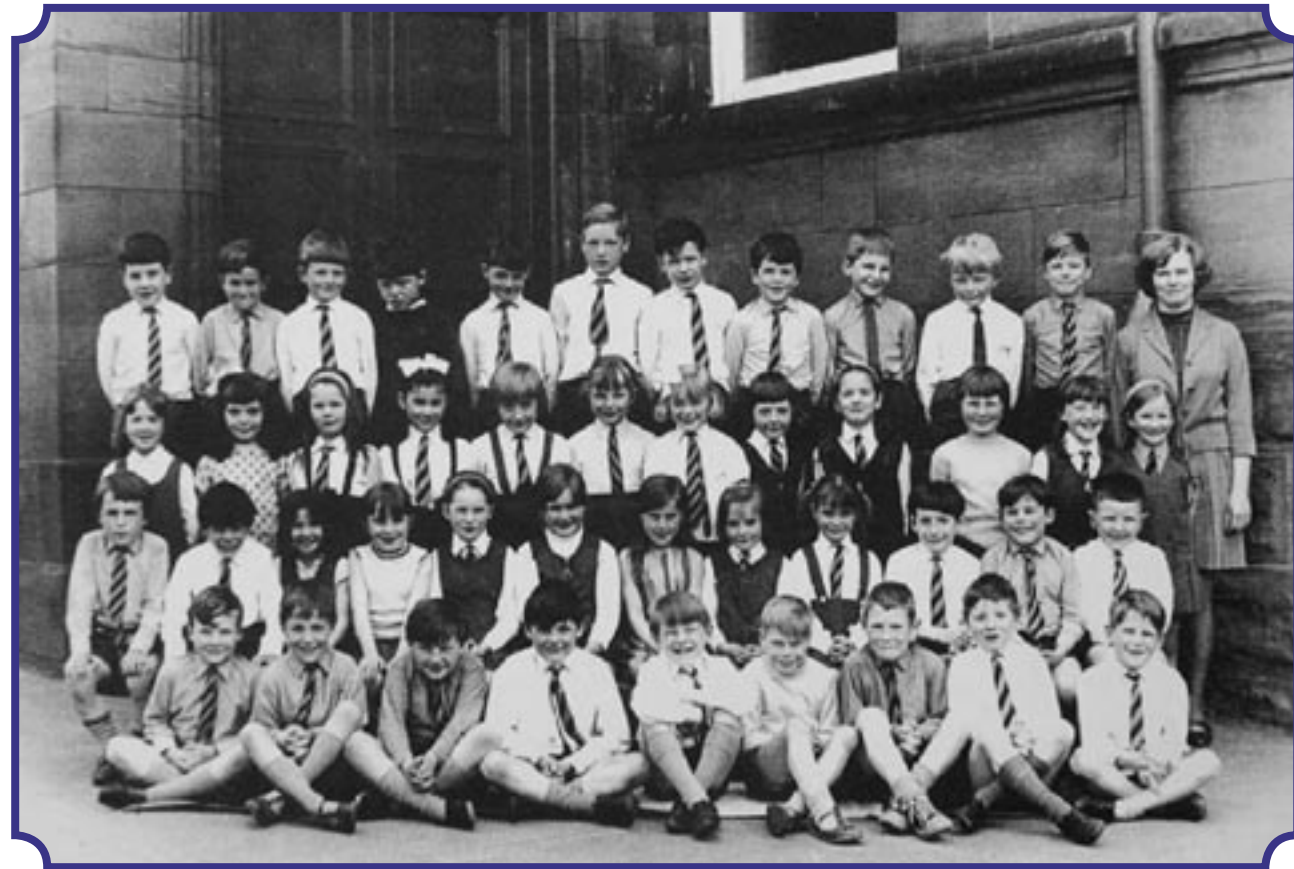
🌀 24th Mar 1936

Scholars assembled in the Hall this morning to listen to a Broadcast Description of the progress of the “Queen Mary” down the River Clyde.

🌀 13th Jan 1939

Work began today on installation of telephone in Headmaster’s room.

A class from 1969



HISTORICAL EVENTS

🌀 21st May 1900

In honour of the relief of Mafeking the School was not opened today. The children were all assembled in the boys’ playground and addressed by me. The National Anthem was sung after which three cheers were given for the Queen and Baden Powell; the children then dispersed.

The siege was lifted on 17th May. Baden Powell achieved national fame for his efforts defending the town of Mafeking in the second Boer War in South Africa, and went on to found the Scouting movement. A few years later there appeared to be an attempt by the school to mend relations with the Boers.

🌀 18th Nov 1904

A few of the pupils in the Supplementary Class have commenced a correspondence with Dutch pupils in the Transvaal. Much good should arise from this. I shall watch the results with considerable interest.

🌀 10th May 1910

The King, George V, was proclaimed in Glasgow today at 12 noon. At that hour, we gathered all the children in the central hall of the school. The headmaster addressed the pupils, the National Anthem was sung and then three cheers were given for the new King and Queen.

🌀 19th May 1910

The following letter has been received from the Clerk:
“It has been arranged to cancel the holiday fixed for Thursday 19th Inst (Victoria Day) and in lieu thereof to substitute Thursday 2nd prox. The Board have agreed to close all the schools on Friday 20th inst, being the day fixed for the funeral of his late Majesty, King Edward.”

🌀 28th Jan 1936

Funeral of King George V. School closed today.

🌀 27th Sep 1938

A considerable number of pupils were absent today on account of the visit of the Queen and the two Princesses to Glasgow and Clydebank. Pupils listened to the Broadcast of the launching of the “Queen Elizabeth”.

🌀 27th Apr 1981

School assembly – Colonel Jim Irwin, astronaut of Apollo 15 addressed school.

I remember...Royalty

“ I remember being taken to see a colour film of the Queen’s coronation in 1953 at the Elephant Cinema, Kilmarnock Road (now demolished). ”

Jean Hamilton, c1951. Actually the Elephant Cinema is still standing, housing Ethel Austin, & Co

“ Celebrations were held by taking the whole school to Rouken Glen Park for an all day picnic. Children were taken by tram No. 8 from Kilmarnock Road to the park and home by the same means. ”

Bunty Mulholland, on King George VI’s coronation, 12th May 1937

WAR

Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914.

9th Sep 1914

European War: Mr McNab left this morning for active service. He is a member of the national reserve and volunteered. The Board has agreed to pay the salaries of those going to the front. Mr Smith has also joined Lochiel’s regiment of Cameron Highlanders and will probably leave in a few days.

There is difficulty in filling their places as they are both excellent teachers and men cannot be got to fill the vacancies.

Later the same day:

Mr Smith has been rejected for service at the war owing to varicose veins in the legs.

He did manage to join up in January 1915, however.

25th Feb 1915

Mr Ernest McNab, one of our Staff, who has been on active service since Sept 1914 has received a commission in his regiment, 5th Scottish Rifles. Mr Smith is also in this regiment.

23rd Nov 1916

Miss Forsyth has sent word to the Board that she is about to be married to Mr Smith, a member of the staff here, and at present on Military Service. She asks the Board to allow her to remain on the staff under the exceptional circumstances.

7th May 1917

Mrs Dick (Miss Jessie Robertson) has just received word that her husband has been killed in action in Palestine. She is now absent on leave.

1st Jun 1917

The title of the Qualifying Examination Composition paper was “What we did to win the war.”

102 of 106 pupils, average age 12 years, passed.

27th Jun 1917

We received word this morning that Mr Smith, one of the Staff on active service had received the Military Cross for gallant service in France. The school flag was unfurled and the children as well as the teachers were delighted at the news.

28th Jun 1917

On Thursday Mr Smith paid a surprise visit to the school having newly arrived from France. He has a most hearty reception from the pupils who were assembled in the Central Hall of the school.

3rd Sep 1917

Miss Jessie Robertson (Mrs Dick) resigned during the holidays. She was a most capable teacher, and had served as a pupil teacher in Crossmyloof. She has been a member of the staff here since the opening of the School. The prospect of motherhood is the cause of her resignation.

Tragically, as we have seen, Jessie Robertson’s husband had already been killed in action.

19th Sep 1917

In order to give teachers and pupils an opportunity of seeing the King on the occasion of his visit to Messrs Weirs Works, Cathcart, we ran the two attendances together and dismissed at 1.30pm.

18th Mar 1918

Mrs Smith is absent today. Her husband Capt Jas Smith has arrived home from France suffering from gas poisoning.

His respite from the front was too short; he was back in action a month later.

24th Apr 1918

We also this week received information that Capt Jas Smith M.C., a member of our Staff had been severely wounded in France.

The pupils also contributed to the war effort, although their trust in the benefits of tobacco might not be matched these days.

25th Jun 1915

The children have this week collected 8,000 cigarettes, 230 cigars, 6½lb tobacco, 60 doz boxes matches, 58 pipes, and several packets of sweets for the wounded soldiers in our hospitals. Sixteen shillings in money was also received. The Hospitals supplied with above are Aitkenhead House, Pollok House, Stobhill, Royal, Western and Victoria Infirmaries, from each of which letters of thanks have been received.

20th Jan 1916

From September 1914 to June 1915 the following articles were made by pupils and teachers for the soldiers and sailors of our brave Army and Navy:

24 night shirts	75 pairs socks
18 Sleeping semmits	30 pairs hose tops
6 Bed jackets	14 body belts
4 Doz pillow cases	1 cardigan vest
170 mufflers	3 pairs bed socks
92 pairs of cuffs	6 chest protectors
78 pairs of mittens	
31 pairs of gloves	
26 Sleeping helmets (woollen)	

In many instances these little parcels, (socks, mufflers, etc) had packets of sweets and tobacco enclosed as an “extra” for the gallant defenders of their country.

4th Oct 1916

Fifty eight names have been received from ladies wishing to attend the special War Cookery Classes which begin in school tomorrow.

11th Nov 1916

In the month of September 1916 we resolved to make an effort in School among teachers and pupils to raise £50 for the purpose of endowing a bed in one of our Red Cross Hospitals... All set to work and towards the end of October we issued collecting cards to all those pupils who were willing to try and get donations from friends. Others made artificial flowers, lavender bags, sweets, etc and gave the proceeds of sale towards our fund.

The efforts of all have resulted in a huge success, far exceeding our anticipations. £120 have been raised, and our fund is now closed.

17th Nov 1916

The following has been received from the Scottish Branch, British Red Cross Society:

149 West George Street
Glasgow 14th Nov 1916

John S Gilchrist Esq
Headmaster
Langside Public School
Glasgow
Dear Sir,

We have to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your kind letter of yesterday, enclosing Cheque for £100 as a contribution from the pupils of Langside Public School for the purpose of endowing two beds, one in the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital, Bellahouston and

Fundraising poster for
Bellahouston Hospital

the other in the Ralston Home for Paralysed Soldiers, to be called “Langside Public School” Bed. We have much pleasure in enclosing herewith our receipt and on behalf of the Council of the Scottish Branch beg you will convey their most sincere thanks to the pupils of Langside Public School for this splendid contribution and for their kindly interest in our work, for which the council is very grateful indeed.

We will have pleasure in carrying out your instructions regarding the naming of the beds, the plates for which we will put in order at once.

Thanking you for your interest in the matter and with renewed and grateful thanks to the kind donors

We are,
Yours faithfully
Kerr, Anderson & Macleod
Hon Treas

Pupils also collected almost 300lbs of silver paper and tin foil, and were encouraged in thrift and in purchase of War Savings Certificates.

Aug 1918

At the woodwork classes the following have been made by the boys during the session 1917-18: 2150 periscopes, 11 pairs crutches, 22 sets artificial limbs.



27th Sep 1918

Our War Savings have this week reached £4014. In honour of this the two attendances were run together and the school dismissed at 1.30pm.

11th Nov 1918 (Armistice Day)

Today about 11.15am an aeroplane soared above the school and district throwing rockets, lights, etc. This was understood as a signal that the expected armistice had been signed by Germany. About the same time word was received from the Post Office that the Germans had submitted. Work in school was at once stopped; the pupils were assembled in the central hall and addressed by the Headmaster. The flags were displayed, National Anthem sung, and the pupils received the remains of the day as a holiday.

25th Nov 1918

Received by Mr Burnett, teacher of woodwork:

War Office
London SW1
15th Nov 1918
Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to convey to you the Council's hearty thanks for the good work you have voluntarily done for so long a time in producing at your school and forwarding to the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich without charge large numbers of periscopes for Army use.

For a period of nearly three years these periscopes have been used in the instruction of large numbers of troops. The time has now arrived when the council no longer needs the help which you and your scholars have so patriotically given, but the Council desires to place on record its high appreciation of the services you and they have given to the Army.

Signed BB White

10th Mar 1919

Mr Wm McNab returned to school today after 4½ years service with the army.

9th Apr 1919

Mrs Jas Smith who has been a member of the Staff for the past twelve years has resigned. She leaves on Friday. Her husband, Capt Jas Smith has been discharged from the army, after almost a year in hospital. He intends taking a month's holiday before resuming his duties

here as one of the staff. Mrs Smith has been a faithful teacher and has done excellent work.

12th May 1919

Mr Jas Smith resumed his duties today after four and a half years service in the army which he joined as a private and left a Captain. He was badly wounded and is still lame.

26th Nov 1919

Mr James J Smith M.A. is absent on leave today, to attend at Buckingham Palace, London, to receive Military Cross.

15th Jun 1920

The War Memorial placed in Central Hall was unveiled on the evening of 15th June 1920. Rev Jas Fraser, chairman of late Cathcart Board presided and performed the ceremony. The proceedings opened with the singing of two verses of 124th Psalm second version. Mr Ogg a member of Cathcart Board and the new Education Authority addressed the gathering, after which the headmaster read the roll of those whose names were on the tablet. The chairman was then asked to perform the unveiling ceremony, which he did after a very impressive address.

The dedication prayer was offered by Rev Jas McNeill Frazer. Then followed the "National Anthem", "Flowers of the Forest" by Pipe Major Bain and the sounding of "The Last Post" by buglers from 2nd Gordon Highlanders. A most impressive service was thus brought to a close.

A newspaper cutting is pasted into the school log book, and describes the event (facing page).

The pupils were still sending annual gifts to the occupants of the Langside School beds at Bellahouston and Ralston Hospitals as late as 1930. Bellahouston closed in 1931, the remaining patients transferring to Erskine.



The War Memorial in the Central Hall at Langside

LANGSIDE AND CROSSMYLOOF SCHOOLS WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED

With impressive ceremony, which was witnessed by a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen, the tablet, which has been placed in the hall of Langside School to commemorate the former pupils of that school and also of Crossmyloof School, who fell in the war, was unveiled on Tuesday night. The tablet, which is of oak, was designed by Mr William Morrison, the second master. The Rev James Fraser presided, and he was accompanied to the platform by Mrs Fraser, the Rev J McNeill Frazer, Rev William Ogg, Rev J Victor Logan, Mr J R Lyons, Mr Alex Martin, and Mr John S Gilchrist, headmaster. Mr Gilchrist intimated apologies from Sir Charles Cleland, Chairman, Mr John Clark, Director of Education, Canon de Backer, Archibald McPhie, Mr Hugh Robertson, of the Glasgow Education Authority, Mr D G Moodie and the Rev James McMillan. He thanked so many ladies and gentlemen for the presence at the unveiling of the memorial, of which the lads were worthy. He also thanked pupils, parents and all who had contributed to the memorial.

The Rev William Ogg, in a brief address, remarked that they did not say that the lads whose names were on the tablet were more heroic than those who survived. Sacrifice was not less sacrifice, because it had not been terminated by death.

Mr Gilchrist, in a solemn voice, read out the names on the tablet, and called on the chairman to unveil the memorial.

The Rev. James Fraser, before withdrawing the veil, thanked Mr Gilchrist and the members of his staff for the honour they had done him. There was only one reason he knew why he should be asked to perform that honourable duty, and that was his long connection with the old School Board of Cathcart – first as an ordinary member of the Board and latterly as Chairman. He mentioned some of the activities and agencies carried on in the school during the period of the war. No fewer than 4740 articles were made by the girls, and dispatched to our sailors and soldiers and also to our hospitals. The boys in the manual instruction department made 3500 periscopes besides sets of crutches and artificial limbs. A monthly collection was instituted, and the amount contributed by the pupils was £438 10/-, and by the staff £258 18/-, in all £697 8/-. With part of that money the school endowed two beds – one in Bellahouston Hospital, and one in Ralston Hospital. From the time that was done in 1916 up to the present moment the school has kept in touch with the occupants of the beds, and from time to time deputations of teachers and scholars have visited these hospitals. The War Savings Association had a great success, and is continued in a flourishing condition. The sum collected to date was £7300, which at the end of five years will be worth £9400. When the proposal was started last year to erect a war memorial the sum aimed at was £100, and the response of parents, friends, teachers and scholars was so hearty that the figure had been exceeded, so that the memorial will be unveiled free of debt. Between 600 and 700 boys belonging to the school were on service, besides three members of the staff, and one of the latter, Mr Smith, gained the M.C. With the exception of the V.C., all the various honours had been gained by some of the boys, and several gained double honours. The boys joined up from all parts of the world, particularly from Canada, and several of the names on the memorial were of old Crossmyloof and Langside boys who went to Canada, intent on settling there, but who joined up on the outbreak of war. The memorial contained 67 names – 66 boys and 1 girl – a nurse who died on service.

The chairman then unveiled the memorial. Prayer was offered by the Rev J McNeill Frazer, the "Flowers of the Forest" was played by the piper, and the bugler sounded the Last Post. The singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

WAR, AGAIN

🌀 14th Apr 1938

The Headmaster was absent each forenoon this week to attend a course of training in Air Raid Precautions.

🌀 29th Mar 1939

The Headmaster left the school today at 2.45pm to attend a meeting... in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme in time of war.

🌀 28th Aug 1939

School reopened today... Eleven men of C Flight 946 squadron RAF were billeted in the School today.

🌀 31st Aug 1939

Telegram was received today notifying headmaster that children were to be evacuated on Saturday 2nd September. The School was closed according to instructions.

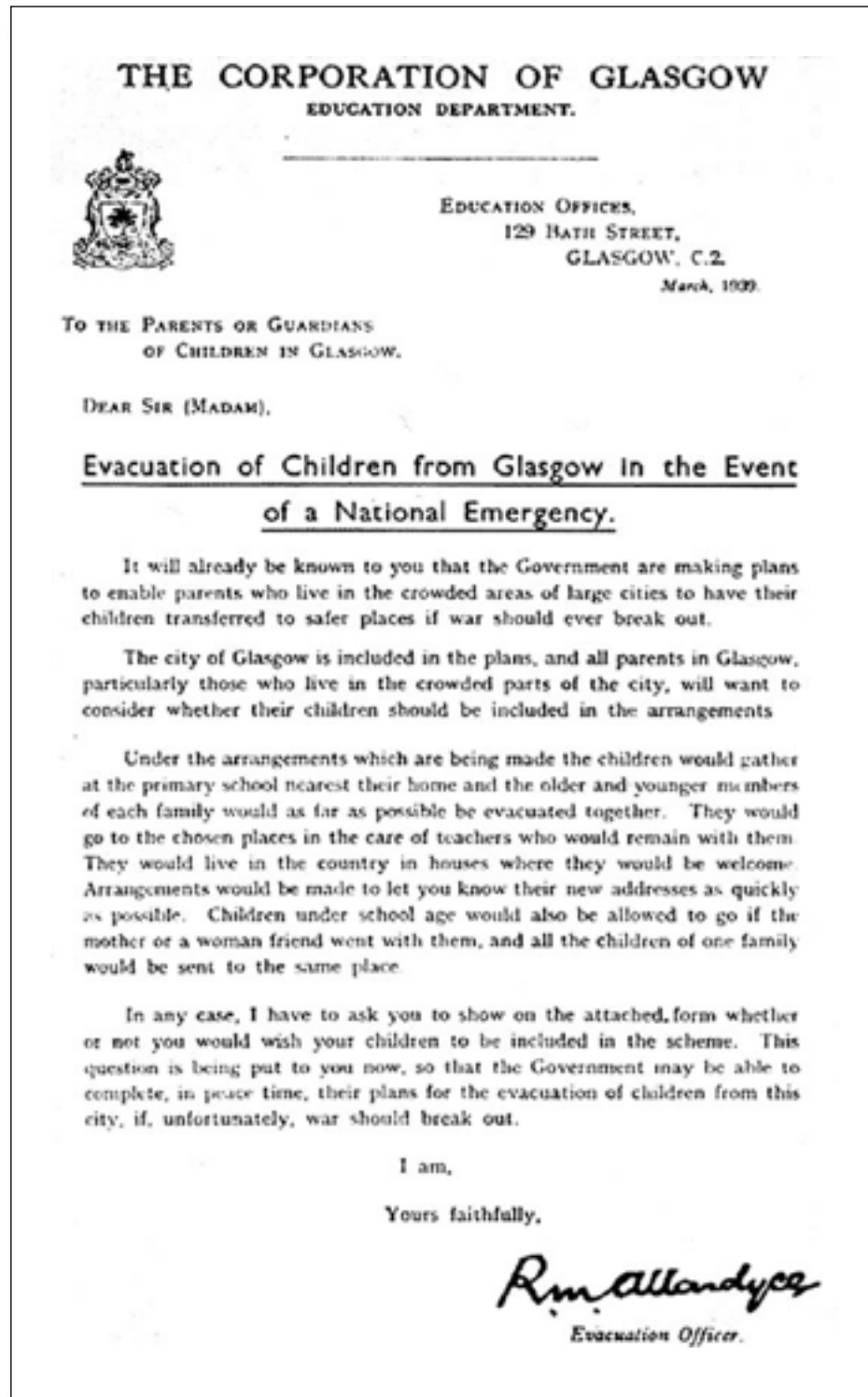
🌀 2nd Sep 1939

The children were evacuated today to several parishes in the south of Kirkcudbright.

Germany had invaded Poland the day before, and war was declared on Germany on the 3rd.

🌀 20th Oct 1939

Arrangements were completed for the five teachers reporting at the School to teach small groups of children in private houses for two hours daily.



🌀 4th Oct 1939

217 men of 945, 946 & 947 squadrons arrive from Cardigan, Bedford.

The three RAF squadrons often used the school as a base, while operating between them 120 barrage balloons in the Glasgow & Renfrew area.

🌀 20th Nov 1939

Instruction of pupils in three Senior Classes in groups of not more than twenty began in School today. Only one group of pupils was allowed in the building at any one time.

🌀 4th Dec 1939

A large proportion of the evacuees have now returned to Glasgow.

By April 1940 the school was busy again teaching 358 pupils, mostly for a half day only.

🌀 28th Jun 1940

Received notice this morning that the school was to remain open during July and August primarily for social, recreational and health purposes under adequate supervision by the Teaching Staff.

🌀 19th Jul 1940 (The final entry in the log book)

Air raid practice was carried out this morning at ten o'clock. The Officer Commanding advised that the children should remain in the shelters as he had received warning that an air raid was in progress.

Log books continued to be kept until relatively recently, but none beyond 1940 are currently available to members of the public. Their secrets might yet be revealed at the school's 150th anniversary.

I remember...The War

“Bombs were dropped in nearby Deanston Drive and the corner of James Gray Street. I lived at No 9 Lethington Avenue and a German bomber actually crash landed in the grounds behind us. I remember seeing the crew being led away.

I do recall that the more senior side of the school had both a higher and lower playground and this reminds me of the tale of a “sinister” plan hatched by a group who shall remain nameless, to chalk a large scale image of a swastika on the lower level. The plan was leaked and Mr Wright interviewed the gang members who confessed to hoping that the RAF, upon returning from a raid on Germany, might have a couple of bombs left! No punitive action was taken although we understand Mr Wright nearly did himself an injury suppressing his laughter behind a grave front.”

James Manderson, c1942

“When the school was closed for a time, due to the war, the classes were spread out over several homes, and ours was one of them. The Form Teacher was in charge of a small class of us girls, seated round our large table in the dining room, three days a week. Every time the door bell rang I would get up to answer it, despite the fact my mother was in the kitchen to do so. From this you can guess I disliked the home lessons as much as I had in school.

The school was turned into a rest centre for the bomb victims, and volunteers like my mother provided them with food and clothing. Where they went to after that I have no idea, but after a raid, it was sad to see these people trailing along the road to the school, some still in their dressing gowns and pyjamas.

I still remember knitting squares for the troops’ blankets, and being very jealous when about a dozen members of my class had to go to the front to get presents – and I didn’t get one – only to discover they were the ones who lost their homes in the Deanston Drive bombing.”

Marjorie Brown, c1938

“The area below the boys’ top playground was used as an air raid shelter. In the early stages of the war people actually left their homes and went there in the middle of the night, but they soon became fed up with this and stayed at home.”

*Jack Dougan,
c1945*

“I remember being the only boy in Miss Cameron’s class who could knit. I was so ashamed when no one else (boys I mean) put up their hands. At that time it was needed to knit 6 inch squares to make blankets for the War effort.”

*George Taylor,
c1945*

A FINAL WORD

“My years spent at Langside were among the happiest of my life. It was a wonderful school and I owe it an enormous debt of gratitude. The teachers were second to none and the learning gained from them has supported me magnificently throughout my entire life.”

Jean Hamilton, c1951

LANGSIDE SCHOOL HEAD TEACHERS

Mr John S Gilchrist	22 Feb 1897	-	13 Apr 1923
Mr Mark Drummond	1 May 1923	-	16 Nov 1924
Mr James Hall Maxwell	8 Dec 1924	-	14 Jan 1927
Mr Henry J Campbell	17 Jan 1927	-	6 Jan 1929
Mr Alexander Burns	7 Jan 1929	-	31 Aug 1932
Mr William P Watson	1 Sep 1932	-	1935
Mr George Wright	1935	-	1944
Mr Robert Tulloch	1944	-	1950
Mr William Hogg	1950	-	1952
Mr Angus Maciver*	1952	-	1958
Mr James Johnston	1958	-	1968
Mr James McCormick	1968	-	1974
Mr Chas G McGinley	1974	-	1981
Ms Lillas W Martin	1981	-	1989
Mr Ian McDonald	Sep 1989	-	Dec 1991
Mrs Christine Wilson	13 Jan 1992	-	present

INFANT DEPARTMENT

Miss Jessie McDonald	Aug 1906	-	27 Feb 1925
Miss McComb	27 Feb 1925	-	6 Jan 1929
Miss Henrietta McCreddie	7 Jan 1929	-	19 Apr 1931
Miss Sarah Cameron	20 Apr 1931	-	Unknown

**Angus Maciver wrote ‘The New First Aid in English”, a widely used textbook that is still in print today.*

FORMER LANGSIDERS AT THE CENTENARY REUNION

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Morag Auld (nee MacRaid) | Judith Dalziel (nee Macdonald) | J Robertson |
| Jessie Miller (nee Turpie) | Alison Graham | Douglas Meikle |
| Pauline Ferguson (nee Farquhar) | Margaret Orr | Marion Faulds |
| Ann Gray | Jeanette Blackie | Margaret Prufer (nee Higgins) |
| Debbie Nelson | Beryl Quinn | Margaret Galston (nee Louden) |
| Gordon Brown | Louise Robertson | David Liddell |
| Marion Alexander | Jill Henderson (nee Inglis) | Jean Hamilton |
| May McDougall | Nita Taylor | Ann Martin |
| Alasdair Donaldson | June Park | Christopher Whitfield |
| Andrea McKay Connie Fee | Linda Allan | George Taylor |
| Norman Kilpatrick | Jean Johnston (nee Menzies) | Jean Smith |
| James Lamond | Dorothy Mair (nee Henderson) | Gillian Graham |
| Violet S? (nee Dick) | Dorothy Boyd (nee Campbell) | Vicki Chalmers |
| Marie McLachlan (nee Langley) | Mildred Drysder (nee Millar) | Kenneth Morrison |
| David McLachlan | David Faulds | Andrew Elliot |
| Kathleen Watt (nee Nisbet) | Jean Melville (nee Robertson) | Anne MacGregor (nee McKerlie) |
| | | Audrey Gardner (nee Scarle) |



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Empress Training Ship Band (Photograph) © Fiona McInnes

The Tawse (Photograph) © Colin Farrell, www.corpun.com

Bellahouston Hospital Poster © British Red Cross Society

Friends Reunited, www.friendsreunited.co.uk

School photographs kindly submitted by former pupils

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Langside Primary School

1906 – 2006

Life in a 20th century school

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Langside Primary then and now. Andrew Balfour's original drawing, of 1904, and how it appeared in 2006