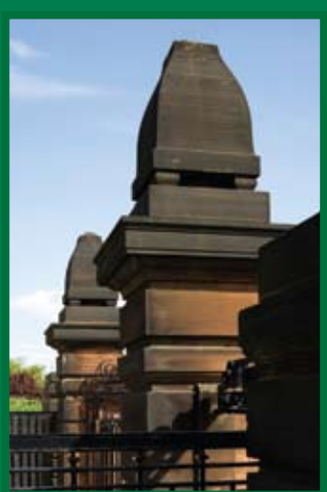
Jordanhill School Journal

March 2011



Rector

Welcome to the latest edition of the Journal which for the first time has been produced with the collaboration of senior pupils.

From 2011 the Journal will incorporate the output of the editorial team which previously produced the School Magazine.

The traditional magazine format resulted in a product that was often a year out-of-date by the time of publication, had a very limited circulation of 500 and was not suited to modern electronic communications. Through the Journal and web site the pupils can publish their pieces earlier and to a much larger audience both in print (3000) and online.

This development forms part of a wider update of communications with our new web site going live with this edition of the Journal. On page 11 you can read more about how to keep up-to-date with the latest news and register for the Journal, Newsletters and electronic bulletins.

You will recognise pages written by pupils by the perhaps more informal, and at times irreverent, style and also by the sponsorship inserts. Attracting sponsors has always formed a key element of the enterprise side of publishing for pupils.

The funds raised this year will go to the Educational Amenities Trust to support a wide range of extra-curricular and out of school activities including the benevolent fund. Thank you to the editor Lewis McKenzie and his team for their efforts.

Lewis McKenzie

I hope you enjoy reading about the school past and present in the pages that follow, including plans for the redevelopment of the Hall. If you would like to contribute to the Journal, then please contact us.

Paul W. Thomson

Rector

Jordanhill School
Charity Dinner

Saturday 7 May 2011
7.00 for 7.30 p.m.
School Hall

Tickets £45
Full details on the web site

Kenyawi Kids
SC039598
Promoting sustainable orphan care across Kenya and Malawi
29 Vancouver Road, Glasgow, G14 9HR
www.kenyawi-kids.com
kenyawikids@hotmail.co.uk

Golf Outings 2011

Thursday 12th May
Balmore Golf Club
Tee-off 2.00 p.m.
Deposit £10.00

Thursday 8th Sept
Cawder Golf Club
Keir Course
Tee-off 2.00 p.m.
Deposit £10.00

Former pupils and staff, female and male, are invited to attend this year's outings.
Please contact the secretary John Roxburgh for full details. **Tel. 01360 622616**

School Hall

When former pupils enter the school hall the first thing they usually say is "Oh, it is smaller than I remember". The second thing is "But it hasn't changed" except of course that the stage was removed in the summer 2008.

In almost all respects the hall has remained unaltered for the past 50 years. It is definitely looking a bit tired and a major refit is overdue.

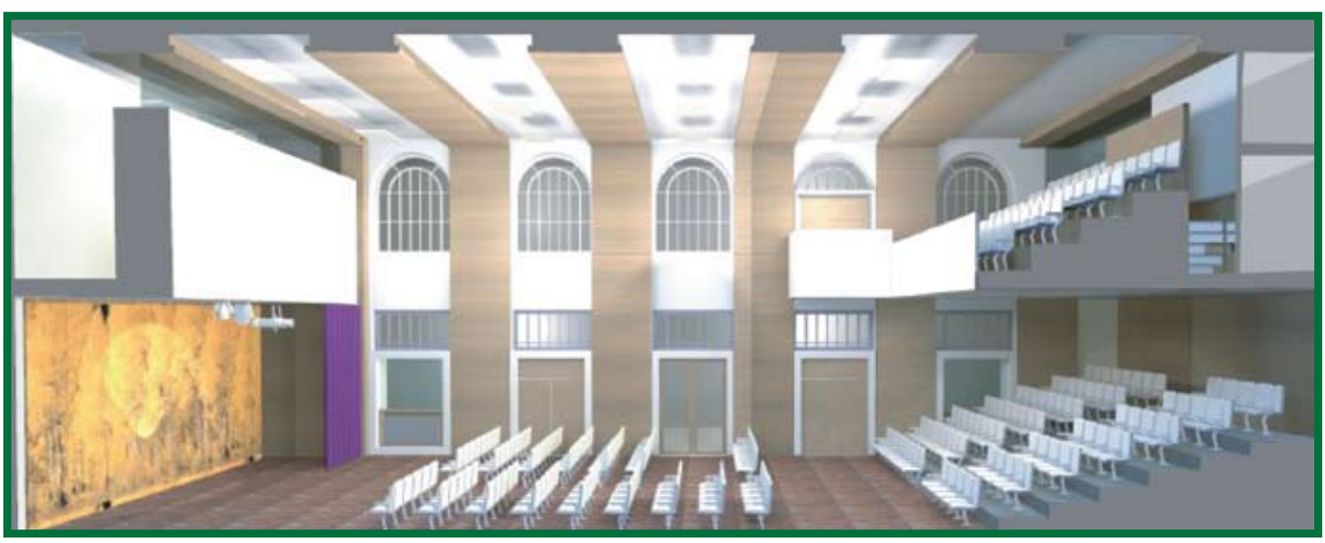
We are also aware that the University intends to vacate its Jordanhill campus in the summer of 2012. While the plans indicate that the college hall may be retained for community use it will certainly be out of commission while the David Stow building is renovated and converted. We therefore need a venue which can accommodate larger audiences than the school hall can at present.

In February 2011 the Board took a decision to undertake a phased renovation of the school hall. This will take place over a number of years as capital funding permits.

Preliminary work will commence in April 2011, with the two main phases taking place in the summers of 2011 and 2012 to include the installation of a balcony and seating and the installation of new lighting, heating and sound systems. Retractable seating on the ground floor will form the final element.

This work has to take place around the key uses of the hall such as examination diets.

We hope the artist's impressions offer some insight into how the hall will look at the end of this process.



Aalborg Calling

We are a group from the municipality of Aalborg (in the north of Denmark) who have worked together for two years on a project called "Global Citizenship." We are from three different schools and hope that the project will broaden the minds of our students, so they will appreciate the similarities and differences between peoples and learn to value diversities.

Ferslev School

It was with this in mind that we set out to Scotland to see and experience how education is conducted elsewhere.

We established a contact through Dr Thomson, and he arranged a day for us at Jordanhill School.

We were warmly welcomed by all the staff and the students. We were fortunate to see many different parts of the school and also talk to many students.

We were very impressed by the nice atmosphere amongst the teachers as well as by the different classes we visited. The students seemed very eager to learn and also content at the same time.

By looking at your school, we got some good ideas to use in our schools in Aalborg. It was very interesting seeing, how you use the Storyline (the idea about "The Storyline" was actually "born" at your school a number of years ago). It is a brilliant way of teaching young children about the school, the community, and themselves.

Every year our 12 – year old students make art for the school.

The theme here is "H.C. Andersen."

Another thing we definitely will imitate from your school is the use of teaching assistants, especially with the use of older students in the younger classes. No doubt, the young children were very impressed by the older students that helped them in class.

Your facilities are quite amazing! It was fantastic how your school seems very orientated in an artistic and musical way. There were lots of student-produced pieces of art, and there seemed to be music and art everywhere!

It is always very rewarding to see, how education is conducted outside your own school, but I must admit that the visit to Jordanhill School was a great opportunity to experience how good teaching can be conducted.

Thank you very much for a great day!!
And of course, you are invited to visit us in Aalborg, too!!

Corrie Mortensen

Madrid
British Council Comenius Programme

For the past 2 years I have been studying Spanish part-time at the University of Strathclyde. Last year I decided it would be very beneficial for me to undertake a language course for teachers in Spain itself. I had already participated in similar courses in both France and Germany, and found the experience to be very rewarding and worthwhile.

I first contacted the British Council to see what courses were available. The British Council is the UK's international cultural relations body and is involved in several activities including E-twinning and European School Partnerships. As part of their work, they award funding to a number of teachers each year to take part in professional development courses overseas. Undertaking a training activity provides an excellent opportunity to refresh language skills, improve practical teaching and allow for a greater understanding of school and further education across Europe.

I then accessed the British Council's Comenius training database which allowed me to search for suitable courses. I chose a course entitled 'Primeros Pasos en Español', completed an application form, and I was successful! A few months later, at the start of July, I was getting ready to spend a week in Madrid.

The course had three goals: to improve teachers' competence in Spanish, to improve methodological expertise through the use of drama, and to deepen teachers' knowledge of Spanish culture. As active learning is a key component of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), I knew that the emphasis on drama would be an exciting means to develop my teaching.

Participating teachers came from across Europe and beyond including Martinique, Norway and the Czech Republic. There was a strong group dynamic which allowed us to put ourselves in the position of our students and try out new techniques. The course was delivered through a variety of interactive workshops which focussed on developing dialogues, scene building, storytelling, language theatre games and voice techniques. As a result, it enhanced my teaching delivery and I was equipped with the skills to further motivate my own pupils.

After the summer break, I returned to Jordanhill School eager to put what I had learnt into practice. I was able to share my experiences with the rest of the modern languages department and finally try out some of the new activities with my pupils. As S1 are the first year group who are experiencing CfE in full, I have been using this class as a pilot group. As you can see from the photos and comments below, 1ST are thoroughly enjoying the new teaching and learning techniques, and it is definitely helping them to learn French in a new and more interesting way.

All in all, the course has given me a variety of new teaching ideas which is having a positive impact on the learning process within the classroom. I would recommend studying abroad to both teachers and pupils alike. It is a fantastic opportunity to broaden horizons, learn about new cultures and improve language skills.

S Masson, Modern Language Department

Jayson Nelson 1SJ

"I think the activities we get to do in the atrium are awesome".

Isabella Argondizza 1SJ

"In Ms Masson's class we play interactive games. I enjoy them and I think other people do too."

Kareena Sandhu 1SJ

"The games we have played are rubber chicken, numbers, name game and many more. I think these games make education better as it is more energetic and fun".

Stewart Murray 1SJ

"The activities are one of the reasons I really like French. It is a really fun way to learn".

Andrew McGilveray 1SJ

"The rubber chicken game helps me learn as it involves counting quickly".

The Good Old Days

Having described in the previous "Jordanhill Journal" my memories of the School when I was a pupil, the story is completed by the following brief description of the surrounding area and what life was like in those far-off days. This was originally a talk given to S2 pupils, but it may also bring back memories for FPs of that era, and perhaps the grandparents of present pupils!

Iain Mann.

Jordanhill – The War Years

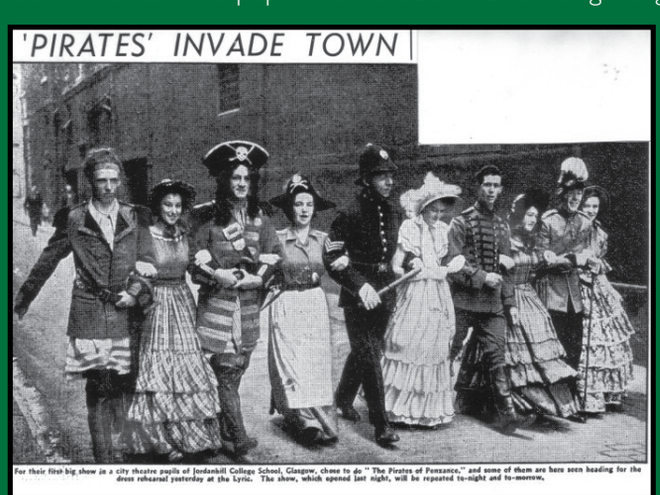
Within days of my starting at Jordanhill in 1939 the Second World War began. At first, we children noticed little difference in our daily lives, except that at nights there was a total blackout, with no street lighting and every window with black curtains drawn. Parents were very worried about Glasgow being bombed, and many children were evacuated to quiet country places where they would be safer, but most were brought back home within a few months when there had been no air raids. However our daily school routine was soon to be badly disrupted for several years.

In 1940 the main School building was requisitioned by the army, and this caused major problems. The whole secondary department and the two top primary classes were moved to Jordanhill College and put into makeshift rooms all over the large building. Other primary classes went to Woodend Tennis Club, Yarrow Recreation Club, and what were called the garden classrooms, a row of small outbuildings of the College just inside the back gate on Jordanhill Drive. The early primary and all infant classes were split into smaller groups and were taught in private houses around the district which had a large enough room.

It must have been a nightmare for the headmaster and staff having to organise the removal of all the desks and chairs, blackboards, books and equipment to places not designed for them, and then to run the daily routine with the school spread all over the district. But we younger pupils treated it all as a big adventure and took it all in our stride.

When the war ended in 1945 the army had already vacated the School, but we had to wait another year while the inside was refurbished and restored to its former condition. The staff and pupils moved back in at the beginning of the 1945-46 year, and we all had to start finding our way around in surroundings that were totally strange to us.

After the War things slowly returned to normal, teachers who had been away in the armed forces returned and the School started to get back to its normal routine. All the School sporting and extracurricular activities started up again; in 1947 the first of many Gilbert and Sullivan operas was staged in the School Hall; in 1948 the new School badge was introduced and the House system was brought back; and in 1951 the first foreign trip took place when staff and senior pupils enjoyed a week's visit to Paris.


'PIRATES' INVADE TOWN

For their first big show in a city theatre pupils of Jordanhill College School, Glasgow, chose to do "The Pirates of Penzance," and some of them are here seen heading for the dress rehearsal yesterday at the Lyric. The show, which opened last night, will be repeated to-night and to-morrow.

Pirates of Penzance Principles 1950

The Local Area

Streets and Houses

Most of the houses in the School catchment area were already there sixty years ago, but the appearance of the buildings has been transformed as most of the villas and terraces have been stone-cleaned to remove many years of Glasgow grime and soot. You can see what they were all like in 1950 by looking at the few houses that have not yet been treated! And of course almost every home now has central heating and modern kitchens and bathrooms, making life much more comfortable than it was sixty years ago!

Shops

The two rows of shops in Crow Road are still there, but most have changed ownership and purpose several times. The only one still unchanged is Tomasso's ice-cream café, which in our day was known simply as "the Tally's". In the1950s the shops between the two bridges included a fishmonger, a butcher, a baker, a grocer, a chemist, a newsagent, a sweet shop and a school book-shop, all privately-owned and staffed and all very busy and successful. In those days there were no fridges or deep-freezers and supermarkets had never been thought of, so it wasn't possible to do a week's shopping at a time and store the food at home.

Crow Road Shops

So most housewives walked or cycled to the local shops every day, and probably enjoyed exchanging news and gossip with other neighbours. Men of course never went near these local shops except to the newsagent and tobacconist!

Local Roads

The only change to the main roads has been the alteration to Balshagray Avenue to create the access road to the Clyde Tunnel which opened in 1963. Although the tram-lines and cobbles have gone from Crow Road, the road surfaces haven't improved much. In the 1950's the street lighting was not nearly as good as it is today, and Woodend Drive and the other residential streets still had gas lamps lit by a council lamplighter every evening! On the other hand there were very few cars, no traffic jams, no double yellow lines or parking restrictions, and no cameras or traffic wardens!

Public Transport

Glasgow's public transport system was important to most people, as there were very few private cars. There were many bus services from the suburbs following different routes into town from Crow Road and along Great Western Road. Double-decker trams were the other main source of public transport, and there were several routes through Anniesland, which was also a terminus for some routes. The longest one went all the way to Cambuslang via Argyle Street. The trams ran on rails in the middle of the road, and at most stops there were central islands where passengers boarded, having to cross the traffic lanes to get there, but this wasn't a

Woodend Drive

problem as there were few vehicles to be avoided. The buses and trams were always busy, and at rush hours it was not unusual to have to stand all the way into or home from the city centre.

The Underground (or subway as we still call it) went round the same inner and outer circles as today stopping at all the same stations, although some of them have been re-named. But the trains were even more cramped and uncomfortable with inward-facing wooden slatted benches, and there were nearly always people standing. The Underground stations were poorly lit and unventilated, but again we knew nothing better and took all this as normal.

There was no Clyde Tunnel and no Clydeside Expressway so journeys to the South Side involved a long trip into town and across the city bridges, unless one took the subway or one of the river ferries at Finnieston, Partick or Renfrew. Outside Glasgow there were no motorways or dual carriageways, and all journeys were on two-way roads which today would be called A-roads – or worse.

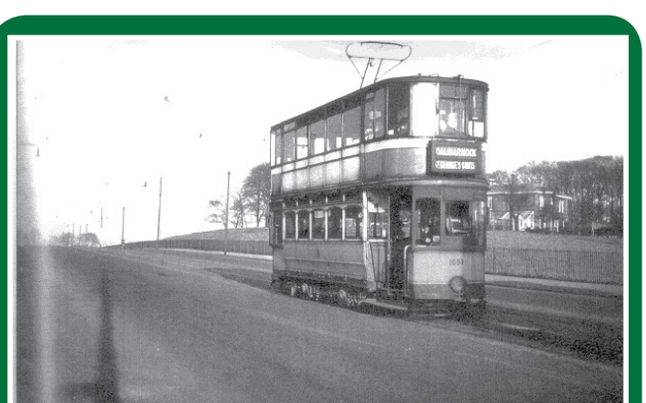
Trains ran through Jordanhill and Anniesland stations into Queen St. Low Level just as they do today, but they were pulled by steam engines belching out smoke and black smut, and everything was pretty dirty. There were no automatic doors on the carriages, and the only way to open the carriage door was to lean out of the window and turn the outside handle. Going through the underground tunnels wasn't pleasant, and the low level platforms at Charing Cross and Queen St Low were always filled with smoke. But passengers were used to the dirt and smoky atmosphere and also the thick winter fogs.

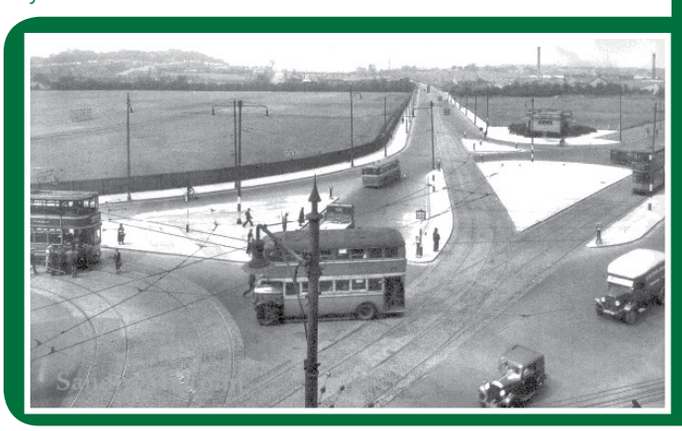
Cycling was much more common, as for many it was the cheapest and easiest means of travel. There were no such things as cycle lanes, and it wasn't very comfortable cycling on the cobbles that were still the surface of Crow Road! Most pupils at Jordanhill School either cycled or walked to school, and being driven by a parent on the "School run" was unheard of.

Today's young people would be appalled if a time machine transported them back sixty years, but those of us growing up in the 40s and 50s took the living standards for granted as we knew nothing different, and enjoyed life just as much!

There have been many changes in Jordanhill School over the last sixty years. Curriculum, teaching methods, discipline, and relationships between teachers, pupils, and parents are very different from what they were sixty years ago. The School has come through some very difficult and challenging times but has adapted well to the changes it has faced. Today it is recognised as a modern "centre of educational excellence", while still remaining true to the ethos and traditions developed over its 90 years.

Thousands of former pupils are proud of their association with "their" School and look back on their time there with affection. I am confident that future generations of pupils will continue to "strive for the highest" and bring further credit to Jordanhill School.





New Web Site

The school web site had always been one of the most informative and useful in Scotland offering current and prospective parents access to a very wide range of information not found on other school sites.

It is first and foremost a channel of communication with everyone in the Jordanhill School community and a mechanism by which the Board and the school makes itself accountable to the community it serves. As the Journal is published our brand new site with much additional functionality goes live.

Visit www.jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk and browse the pages of interest. Then click on **Manage My Subscriptions** under the **School Newsletter** heading (bottom right).

If we already hold your details you will have been registered in advance for the items of particular interest. New users can register and existing ones can change their subscriptions.

We will be sending out further information about how the web site can work for you via the e-bulletins to parents and the FP bulletins.

Happy browsing!

Higher Design

Anna Reid
Jewellery based on the Sea Shore, with resin. driftwood and found objects

Caitlin McCarthy
Jewellery based on Butterflies and Flowers, with resin, Copper, Gold-leaf, Beads and Fantasy film

Claire McTaggart
Detail of Corset Design Based on Big Cats

Ellen McFadden
Jewellery Design based on Sea-life

Erin Kennedy
Shoe design, influenced by Sea-life, with copper, resin and Angelica fibres

Ruth Dunbar
Hat Design based on Organic Form

Marc Hillis
Chair Design based on Sea-life

Rachel Riddell
Hat Design Based on Organic Form

Erin Kennedy
Shoe design, influenced by Sea-life, with copper, resin and Angelica fibers

Marsali Miller
Jewellery Design Based on Organic Form

Tom Malcolm
Design Idea for Architecture

From the Past

50 Years Ago

Easter Trip to Switzerland

Magazine 1960

After the 1959 Trip to Gay Paree, it was decided this year to have a quieter (?) holiday among the mountains of Switzerland, and, following a period of uncertainty (our Travel Agency's unwillingness to reveal our true destination was reminiscent of former deputy-head, Mr Smith's announcement of the winning house on Prize Day), Fribourg was finally named as our 1960 holiday centre.

The Channel crossing did not have too bad an effect on our party, and we managed to survive until the train reached Basle, where the famished hordes swarmed out on to the platform and into the buffet. Half-an-hour later, with the pangs of hunger temporarily appeased, we emerged into the sunlight again, and travelled the last hundred miles through Swiss hills, white with cherry blossom to Fribourg. Unhappily, our arrival took place in pouring rain, so we were all glad first to sit down to a nice hot meal in the Pension Internationale, and then to grasp the opportunity of making up the lost sleep of the previous two days.

We spent the next day, Good Friday, exploring Fribourg, and in the old town with its steep, narrow, cobbled streets, half-a-dozen of our number played a game of football against some of the locals, and succeeded in winning 1-0.

On Saturday, we went to Lausanne, on Lake Geneva, and from our train window saw a wonderful panorama which none of us will ever forget – the clear blue lake stretching away to the horizon, and round about, the snow-covered mountain peaks reaching up to the azure sky. It was a glorious day as we crossed Lake Geneva to the French resort of Evian-les-Bains, where we ate a picnic lunch in a café near the promenade before looking round the town. When we had returned across the lake to Lausanne, we hired paddle-boats and sailed round the bay, in and out among the many yachts and launches moored there, and then, after wandering round the Lausanne shops, we came back to Fribourg.

That day was followed by others equally enjoyable. On Easter Sunday, a bus tour took us along steep mountain roads up to the Jaunpass, where, alighting in a snowstorm, we had some coffee at the Hotel des Alps before descending to Interlaken for lunch. From Interlaken, we proceeded to Beatus, where we went three-quarters of a mile through underground caves into the heart of the mountain.

During Monday and Tuesday we visited Gruyeres with its old castle, Montreux on Lake Geneva and Berne, the capital of Switzerland. The main attraction there was the bears, which were an endless source of amusement to the people watching them, but we also managed to find time to see the market, the big department stores and the Parliament Buildings.

In the evening, we had a pleasant game of football with the Swiss boys, who stayed across the road from the Pension, and we succeeded in finding out a little of what they thought of Scotland. Their chief idea was that it was inhabited by the Loch Ness Monster, and they wondered why none of us had seen it. They became quite friendly with us, and insisted on copying down the address of one of our party who seemed to have made a big hit with them. As their pronunciation of the alphabet is somewhat different from ours, this was rather a lengthy business, but it was at length completed and we regretfully bade them "Bonsoir" for the last time.

And so, all too soon, our holiday had to come to an end. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely and I am sure that everyone is grateful to Mr McQueen and Mrs Singleton for the time and energy which they spent in making our memorable visit to Switzerland such a great success.

J.R. IV

25 Years Ago

A Trip to Lake Titicaca
Magazine 1985

While in Buenes Aires after our adventurous trip to Tierra del Fuego, my uncle met an old friend who had been a fellow student at University. This gentleman was a mining engineer who had spent many years working at a silver mine in Bolivia, and he had a private jet lying at the airport waiting to fly him back to La Paz. We were invited to go with him back to Bolivia and to visit the mine and to see some of this very interesting country. Next day we took off and soon we were flying at high altitude over the great range of the Andes.

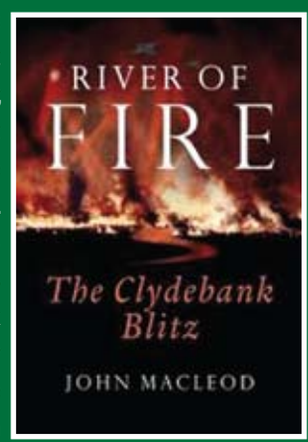
After landing at La Paz, we were flown by helicopter to Potosi where the silver mine was situated. It was amazing to see a town of this size with over 200,000 inhabitants lying in a fold of the mountains at an altitude of 12,000 feet. The miners were mostly Indians descended from the Incas and the only people able to work at this altitude. From Potosi the silver ore was transported to Lake Titicaca where it was loaded onto a special ore-carrying barge and taken to Puno on the Peruvian side of the lake. Lake Titicaca is the highest fresh-water lake in the world and it is like a vast inland sea.

As we travelled along on the train which was transporting the ore, we could see large flocks of llamas, alpacas and vicunas nibbling at the sparse grass. We sailed across Lake Titicaca on a steamer which had been built at Scotstoun in Glasgow and had been transported across the world in parts and assembled in Peru.

From Puno we travelled by rail to Lima which is the capital of Peru and we gazed from our railway carriage windows, we saw once again the magnificent Condor sweeping down from the mountains with his massive wings spanning 3 metres like a huge glider. We felt like we were meeting an old friend once more. From Lima we hoped to catch a plane which would fly us on to California.

Ruth Whyte P7b

River of Fire



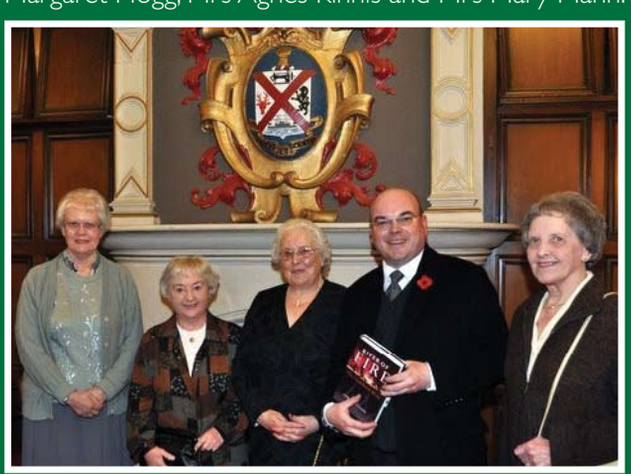
Vibrating with endeavours for Britain's effort against the might of Nazi Germany, Clydebank was – in hindsight – an obvious target for the attentions of the Luftwaffe. When, on the evening of 13 March 1941, the authorities first detected that Clydebank was 'on beam' – targeted by the primitive radio-guidance system of the German bombers – no effort was made to raise the alarm or to direct the residents to shelter or flight.

Within the hour, a vast timber-yard, three oil-stores, and two distilleries were ablaze, one pouring flaming whisky into a burn that ran blazing into the Clyde itself in vivid ribbons of fire. And still the Germans came; and Clydebank, now an inferno, lay illuminated and defenceless as heavy bombs of high-explosive, as land-mines and parachute blasters began to fall.

With reference to written sources and the memories of those who survived the experience, John MacLeod tells the story of the Clydebank Blitz and the terrible scale of death and devastation, speculating on why its incineration has been so widely forgotten and its ordeal denied any place in national honour.

John is a former pupil who has written several articles for the Journal. River of Fire was launched at a Civic Reception in Clydebank Town Hall.

John is pictured with former staff who taught him at Jordanhill in the 1970s: Miss Margaret Goodwin, Miss Margaret Hogg, Mrs Agnes Kinnis and Mrs Mary Mann.



90th Anniversary Photographs

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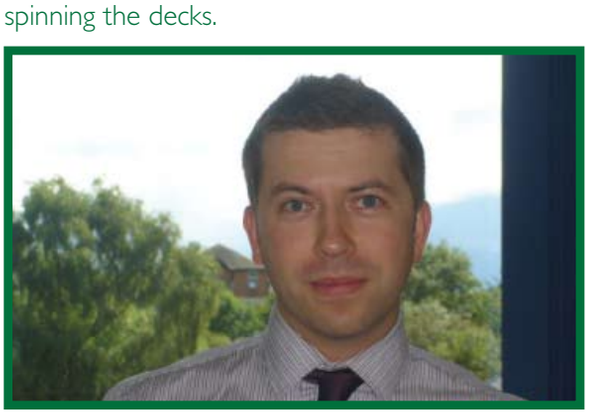
And can be re-ordered by visiting www/gsarchive.co.uk or telephone 01869 328200.

JORDANHILL SCHOOL
1920 - 2010

New Staff

Mrs. Sterkenburg came from Carluke High School and looks forward to a fruitful career at Jordanhill. She particularly likes the uniform we wear and thinks we look well presented, but most of us don't agree! The thing she says most is 'You'll thank me later.' Her favourite foods are Kit Kats and Cornettos- not very healthy Mrs Sterkenburg! She's not one for sports, too busy biting her nails! Her pet hate is pupils interrupting her so be careful when having your weekly gossip in ICT. Her favourite teacher is Mr Bardell and her favourite year to teach is the seniors, gutted first years! She admires Nelson Mandela, partly because she grew up in South Africa and her favourite movie is 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding.'

Mr McMaster previously taught in Mearns Castle. He loves Jordanhill's enthusiastic pupils and his favourite food is sushi. He doesn't seem to have a favourite teacher (maybe he doesn't like any?) and his idol is Mrs. Wood. His pupil pet hate is chewing gum (so no sticking it under the desk) and his favourite year is first year. His history icon is Thomas Paine and favourite movie is 'City Of God'. His favourite sport is football. When we asked him who the best looking teacher is, he blushed and laughed awkwardly (pretty suspicious if you ask me). He is just married and is unavailable, unlucky ladies! Seniors if you want to learn more, pop along to Garage on a Saturday night to hear him spinning the decks.



Miss Jones came here from Garnock Academy in Kilbirnie and she likes Jordanhill's polite pupils. She loves her S1 girls. Her pupil pet hate is when she is mimicked. Her secret favourite food is pizza (tut tut) and favourite movie is 'Anchorman'.
'So's your face!' is her classic and effective comeback, top marks for originality. Her favourite sports are hockey and skiing and her special quote is 'milk was a bad choice'- don't worry, I don't get it either. Her favourite teacher is the infamous Mr Donaldson and her idols include Mr Manson, Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps.

Miss Monaghan's previous school, Fintry Primary School in Stirling has only 60 pupils. Her pupil pet hate is different from most: pupils sticking pencils up their nose. How cleanly! Her favourite food is anything Italian, even cotechino modena? Her favourite saying is: 'If you want a rainbow, you have to put up with the rain'- relevant to Scottish weather eh? She loves the movie 'The Hangover' and her favourite teacher is Mrs Robertson, suck up! Her least favourite moment so far was when a young child brought up their lunch on her leg! Her favourite activities with primaries are PE and 'cut and stick'. Her idol is the head teacher Mrs Matier and out of school, Beyonce. She reckons all her pupils wear a 'Halo' and are 'Irreplaceable.' Some would say she's 'Crazy In Love' or just a 'Beautiful Liar.'

Nobel Prize Winner Visits Jordanhill

The word that a Nobel Prize winner was visiting Jordanhill was greeted with much interest from all areas of the school – Pupils and teachers alike. For when a Nobel Prize winner has something to say, it is well worth listening to.

Sidney Altman, grandfather of Primary 3's Sasha Hazard, won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1989 and he came to the school one afternoon to give a talk to the senior students about his life and achievements. He was keen to stress that the most important advice he could offer to young people wanting to be successful was to give their all, "Two Words, work hard. That's very important," he said "You get satisfaction over a long time when you are doing something you are interested in. I've met many scientists and none of them are lazy."

And from his life, it is obvious that he has worked very hard. His parents emigrated to Canada in 1920 and he was born in Montreal in 1939. From an early age, it was clear to him that the path to opportunity was through education. His interest in physics began when the Americans developed the A-bomb which was dropped over Japan in 1945. The importance of the bomb and the role that scientists played in its creation was highly impressive to him. At age 13, he was given a book that explained the periodic table of the elements. Albert Einstein was a big role model, adding to that list several fiction writers as well as ice hockey and baseball stars over the years.

The road for him has not been an easy one however. He didn't enjoy his 18 months as an experimental physicist at Columbia University and at one point considered whether he should continue with physics. However, through his determination, things soon turned around. He got a job as an assistant professor at Yale University in 1971, at a time where getting any job was considerably difficult. He followed a standard academic pattern and became a professor at Yale in 1980, and was chairman of his department from 1983 until 1985 when he became the Dean of Yale University. On July 1st, he returned to the post of professor on a full-time basis.

Professor Sidney Altman

He was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry of 1989 alongside Thomas Cech for their discovery of catalytic properties of RNA.

If there is a real life example of success being earned through hard work, then Sidney Altman personifies this.

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Megan Triumphs in National Design Award

S5 Product Design student and current holder of the Lidwell Prize for creativity, Megan Gallagher, came first in the design competition at the annual TTA design competition with a unique and bold solution to a brief that required her to design a contemporary dressing table unit.

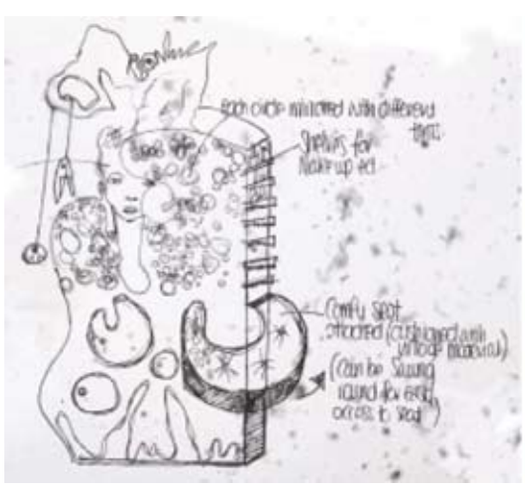
The competition attracts entries from candidates in D&T subjects across the country and was held in the Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh. Judges were particularly impressed with the originality of Megan's design and the skill she demonstrated throughout the build process.

This is the second year in a row that Jordanhill School's Department of Design and Technology has made it into the final of the competition. Last year Rasheeda Ahmed came first in the Innovative Design category, Ben Webster came first in the Computer Graphics category and Ally Taylor came second in the Craftsmanship category.

This year we had no idea how the competition would pan out. The department has never seen or attempted a project with this level of originality. Let's face it, the solution might not be to everybody's taste. You'll either love it or hate it. The word 'wacky' has been used on more than one occasion! Megan however must be commended for maintaining her singular vision for the project. There were battles, and at times doubts crept in, but Megan arrived at a solution close to what she visualised in her head all those months ago.

This translation from page and into the realms of three dimensions, coupled with the problem solving that arose throughout the build cycle, seems to have been the component that impressed the judges most. Nevertheless this is about as far from the norm as they had ever seen in the competition. One of the judges told us that they were hoping to see similar design related projects in future. So very well done to Megan and congratulations to the TTA for embracing a project that displays true innovation and creativity!

Megan's final project. A combination of painted MDF, printed textiles and mirrored acrylic. The final model stands over 2 metres high and presented a few challenges to transport!
The Inset shows the storage potential on the right hand side.



An early initial sketch of Megan's dressing table

A plywood scale model

The final project in process

Jordanhill 4 Star in West Win

Following weeks of intense trials Emily Moran (S5) along with Fiona Galbraith, Nisha Kohli-Lynch and Nina Dickson (all S6) were selected to play for the West District U18 squad at the Scottish Inter-District Tournament at Peffermill, Edinburgh on 6th and 7th November.

Competition to make the West District team is tougher than any other district and the Inter-District Tournament is the biggest opportunity for players to prove themselves to Scottish selectors and hopefully get a call up for National Squads.

Hopes were high for the West girls with Jordanhill making up the back bone of the team: Nina at sweeper, Nisha at right back, Fiona Left mid and Emily up front.

Emily, Fiona, Nisha and Nina

West were on rampant form from the outset winning all of their matches convincingly. Emily Moran notched up lots of goals and the other girls were vital components of the team. Disappointment loomed for Fiona as she picked up an injury but she battled on and played well despite not being at full strength.

Sunday morning saw the prequel to the final with West meeting East and it was a tense 0-0 draw. West then gained a confidence boost with a 9-0 demolition of North of Scotland with Emily again scoring a number of goals.

The big event finally arrived; East and West marched onto the floodlit pitch with hundreds of spectators in the stand for the final. The start was tense with both teams clearly feeling the pressure. Nina Dickson was solid in defence and never looked phased as the East girls charged towards her. Emily Moran came onto her game quickly and made some devastating runs through the East defence, opening up the space and making East look nervous every time she got the ball. Ten minutes in Emily picked up the ball, ran through three players into the circle and with some incredible stick work won a Penalty Corner. As the ball was pushed out the West girls knew exactly what their plan was. A clever dummy let the ball roll to Nina for one of her trademark sweeps which she smashed into the corner of the goal! 1-0 West! The game was end to end and a nerve wracking 40 minutes for the West supporters. However Nina's goal proved to be the most important moment of the tournament for West as the final whistle blew and the West girls lifted up the Scottish Champions Trophy.

This is the first time that Jordanhill School has had as many as four players in the squad and for all of them to play so well was a credit to the school and the hard work they have put in over the years. It was a proud moment for West District, Jordanhill School and the supporters and a day I am sure Nina, Nisha, Fiona and Emily will never forget.

Postscript: Scotland Squad

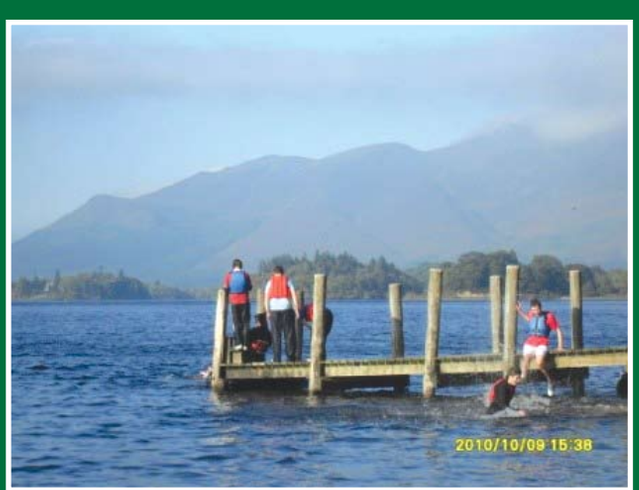
Due to her injury, Fiona was not in a position to be considered by the selectors. Emily, Nisha and Nina were all selected for the squad, but had to turn down the offer due to their examination commitments.

Senior Sports Tour 2010

On 7th October 2010 at 11.30am, we pumped ourselves up for our grand escapade. Of course the journey to the Lake District started with the standard chat and motivational chants. When we arrived we quickly dumped our bags into our rooms and got changed into our training attire and then set off to Austin Friars St. Monica's School to prepare ourselves for the match the next day.

On our return we unpacked and freshened ourselves up for a nice warm dinner made by the 'what should be Michelin-starred' hostel chefs. We finished the night off by participating in one of Gerry Sweeney's legendary quizzes which was eventually won by the team of Scooby-Doo characters.

It was a tiresome morning as some players were rudely awakened by substances such as toothpaste and shaving foam. The day was crammed with activities like abseiling and canoeing in which the football and rugby teams were involved. Player Fraser Gray was confined to the instructor's canoe after being soaked by the other lads. It's all about fun!



The match in the afternoon was greatly anticipated by all, especially the football team as they were defending their 100% season record whilst the rugby squad were of course expecting a heavy loss due to their abysmal start to the season.

Although the opposition quickly replied back with a lucky goal, Jordanhill didn't really struggle throughout the match which the 7-2 final score suggests, even though there were 3 dubious disallowed goals.

Now onto the rugby...in what was a surprising game, the rugby team actually WON!!! Four unbelievable tries from wonder kid Neil Herron added to the eight try-total by which even the rugby coach was surprised. After tries from Calum Scott, Steven Lynch, Calvin Moyes and Innes Black, the match was soon out of

sight of the opposition. The journey back to the hostel was filled with chants declaring both teams' successes of the day.

The final day of the tour consisted of a morning and afternoon activity. The football team went raft building first whilst the rugby team went canoeing. Despite Raghav Sood's best efforts as the engine of Gerry Sweeney's raft team, Mr McCall's team came out on top in what was a thrilling race.

As the afternoon approached, both squads undertook different activities where the football team participated in abseiling and the rugby team went on to do raft building in which they enjoyed ruining the hockey squad's attempts at canoeing. We went back to the hostel for lunch and got ourselves ready to depart back to Jordanhill.

The journey back was broken as we stopped off for dinner at a service station at 7 o'clock. The triple bacon double cheese burger option was a common choice among most folk. The rest of the journey home mainly consisted of more singing and chanting along with Iain Gordon being constantly made fun of, due to his antics before the tour. Sorry Iain!

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WacDoodles Fast Food

Sophie turned into the car park of the WacDoodles Fast Food Restaurant, and her little car juddered to a sharp halt. She crossed the quiet car park slowly, the damp tarmac masking the sound of her footsteps as she headed toward the huge, glowing red and yellow 'W' above the doorway. Suddenly, Sophie felt a strange, eerie sensation as if something, or someone, was drawing her to the luminous letter. It was a curiously unpleasant feeling. Sophie stubbornly stamped her foot and stopped in her tracks. 'No!' she said aloud, just to reassure herself she was in control..

She passed through the doorway and proceeded to make her order at the counter.

'What d'you want?' enquired a tall, gangly, bespectacled teenage boy with a most unfortunate case of acne and overly gelled hair. His voice was oddly high. He grinned and continued to splutter.'Tonights batch a chi'n nuggetsh are patickilly delish, mish.'

Sophie gave him a funny look, her first suspicions aroused.

'Alright then…' she agreed, wondering what this queer youth was up to.

A short while later her 'nuggetsh' were served and as she carefully bit into the first, she came upon a strange, chewy chunk right in the centre. Realising what it was, and angered by the teenage boy implying he was aware of this event, she strode over to the counter.

'Enjoying your meal I hope?' giggled the boy, 'I'm Shtan by the way,' he threw her a cheeky wink.

'No Stan, I'm definitely not. Is this…' Sophie held it up,'… an eyeball?'

Without any warning, Stan lunged at Sophie, grabbed the back of her jacket and dragged her, struggling and yelping like a wounded puppy, back through the strips of plastic hanging from the doorway to the kitchen. He thrust her with surprising strength onto a rectangle of metal in the centre of the dark, dirty room.

'This isn't a kitchen?' Sophie's voice was small and scared.

Stan did not reply, instead he took a step back to reveal the silhouette of a large figure looming over the metal table (which Sophie now discovered she was strapped to).

A dim light flickered on to show the figure's true form. He was a plump man with sunken, toad like eyes with deep, purple circles beneath them. He seemed to have a terrifying atmosphere about him, despite the fact that he looked ill and weak. From the side of the room he drew two sharp, gleaming knives that shone silver like the full moon.

When he spoke, Sophie's insides curdled. 'Disloyal customers are punished for the benefit of the loyal…'he sneered, and gestured to glistening jars of eyeballs and an array of other body parts displayed upon the walls: gruesome trophies of a sick minded villain.

'These delicious bits and pieces will soon be made into food considered as delicacies by some, my lovely!' he continued.

'Delicacies!?' spat Sophie, a look of utter disgust warping her features. Her hair was now messy and stuck to her sweaty face. 'You make me sick!'

Cackling, the chef began circling the room and pressing various buttons, like a vicious bird of prey deciding the best way to seize its victim. 'Getting a little uncomfortable darling? Let me put you out of your misery…'

'It'sh only fair,' chipped in Stan. Sophie shot him a dirty look, icy cold and dangerous. Surprised, Stan cowered back into the shadows.

'But, oh so pretty. Gorgeous!' the chef said. Suddenly, as if he'd been zapped, a look of extraordinary enlightenment overtook his face.

'Stan!' he shouted. Stan jumped up and scurried to the chef's side.

'Yes?' he gulped.

In a flash, Sophie was thrown back into the dining area. Stan strapped down in her place. The last Sophie heard of 'Shtan' were his agonizing shrieks of pain. Then he was silent.

Holly Bird S2

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Waiting for James

Every day, from the minute I wake up to the minute I go to sleep, something is with me. It follows me everywhere I go, copying my every move, trying to be more and more like me. It always comes to me for help, wanting me to teach it. Every time I see it, I remember it. Even when it annoys me, I still remember that one day. It is like a key to a door, inside which lies these memories. It always starts the same way, but the ending always changes in the same way it itself changes.

It was March 12th 2007. I had been waiting for this for almost a year now, and the excitement was slowly turning into desperation. He was already a week late and that week had been the longest week of my life.

I had been staying with my cousins for the past few days, and everyday ended with a phone call explaining that it would be 'another day or so'. Given my young age, I had a tendency to make up things in my head, and for some reason, I was in the mindset that if I didn't get a positive phone call by 3:00 pm, chances were I would be waiting another day.

It was 2:35 pm and I was starting to lose hope.
Then it happened.

The sound of the doorbell ringing signalled a beam of hope inside of me. It was my dad. He took me to the car, staying silent. Perhaps if I was older I would've noticed the grin on his face. On the way to the hospital I kept asking questions to myself and to my dad. Was it a boy or a girl? How tall was he? What did he look like? To all of these, my father's only response was, "Be patient." But I had been patient long enough and persisted to ask questions.

We arrived at the hospital at around 2:55, and given past experiences involving hospitals, the joy inside me suddenly changed to panic and fear.

As we wandered through the endless stream of corridors, I grew more and more worried. Seeing the hospital beds reminded me of the times spent with my dad whilst he was in hospital.

I was nervous.

"Here we are," my dad explained, still bearing that grin. As I entered the room, I was filled with joy. An endless sea of happiness soared through me. It was a relatively small room in comparison to the other rooms we had passed. To the right of the room was my mum, smiling as she watched the excitement on my face. At the back of the room there was a small crib. Inside was the beacon emitting this happiness. On the front of the crib there was a small tag. Written on it was the answer to all the questions I had been asking on the way here:

Name: James Murray
Date of Birth: 12/3/07
Time: 13:10 pm
Weight: 6.9lb

"Can I hold him?" I asked with excessive anticipation.

With that, my dad lifted him with the upmost care and gently lay him down in my arms. My body flooded with emotion. As I felt his soft head lie against my arm, my mind went dead. Everything I was thinking vanished. I completely forgot about everything else around me. I had been brought back to my earliest childhood.

I was his age again. This was the happiest I had ever been. As I looked down at his face and saw his light blonde hair and hazel brown eyes, I felt my eyes start to water. I was looking at myself.

After about an hour or so of waiting around in this sanctuary of happiness, it was time to go. I asked when we could take him home, but was shot down by the words, "About a week."

Upon leaving the hospital, I vowed to spend as much time as possible with this newborn. I swore to teach him and give him as much attention as I possibly could, and most importantly, I promised to make his life as good and as enjoyable as it could possibly be.

Three years on, and I still keep to my word. Without him, I don't think I would be anything like the way I am now. Having someone to look after and care for has changed me completely, and is constantly changing me. It has made me more responsible sure, but it has also given me access to a portrait of my childhood: with his every action being very similar to those of a younger me. The pride I feel at watching him grow cannot be measured in words.

It really is amazing how much one person can change you.

Craig Murray S4

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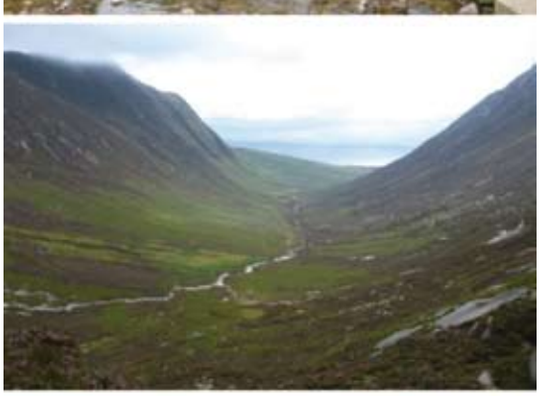
Duke of Edinburgh Award

'The mission is to inspire guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements.'



The Duke of Edinburgh award - or DofE for short - was first introduced in 1956 and aims to provide young people from all backgrounds with opportunities for personal development in many areas of life. With the widest reach of any UK youth charity, 275,000 young people, 30,000 of which are from disadvantaged backgrounds, undertake the different levels of the DofE award: bronze, silver and gold.

The award scheme was offered within the school for the first time last session with support from World Challenge. The Silver Award was offered to all S4 pupils in the hope that the demand to take part would be high enough for the award to run, but not too great that a selection process would be required. While interest was high to begin with in the end we had four pupils.

The four of us then had a number of training sessions about map reading, first aid, pitching a tent and what to pack for an expedition. After this we took a day out of school and went on a training day walk along part of the West Highland Way, along Loch Lomond. Soon after, we set off on a three day training expedition in Arran. We all walked approximately 14km a day, carrying everything we needed for the three days - tents, food and clean clothes. You cannot go on a weekend walking trip to Arran without waterproofs! On our first night, we pitched our tents on a campsite with running hot water and toilets. We took this for granted but on our second night we camped in the wild in an Arran glen and so the running water and toilets of the night before seemed like a luxury! On the ferry back, everybody's feet were very sore and everybody was exhausted from our three days of solid trekking up and down hills.

As well as having to do a three day expedition, people working towards their silver award also have to take part in volunteering, a physical activity and improve on a skill for at least twelve months. These three elements of the award are logged in a record book with every week somebody signing it to confirm that you have taken part in your chosen activity.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a fantastic opportunity that, if completed, looks great on any CV. It provides young people with an opportunity to improve their skills in many areas of life and encourages them to think more independently about their decisions in day to day life. Personally, I would recommend it to anybody that has access to an organisation that runs this award and would encourage them not to hesitate to take part in this very rewarding experience.

Amy Cameron

Editor's Note
Following the success of this first group some 25 pupils have commenced the Silver Award in session 2010-11.

Half Moon Investigations is a children's crime/comedy drama television series created by the BBC and is based upon the novel by Eoin Colfer. It concerns a schoolboy, Fletcher Moon, who spends much of his spare time solving crimes around his school, St. Jerome's. The series began airing in January 2009 and consisted of 13 thirty minute long episodes. The series was filmed in and around a disused secondary school, located in Bellshill.

We are lucky enough to have Fletcher Moon (aka Rory Elrick) at our school and got a sneaky backstage interview. We were able to delve into his private life and discover what the public don't know about Half Moon!

We get the juicy details on his love life and what it's like storming the streets of Jordanhill as a fully fledged celeb!

Q. So, Rory, what's it like being a celebrity?
A. It's rather annoying actually. Having small kids surround you, oh how life's hard!
Q. Do you get a lot of lady attention these days?
A. No, unfortunately not.
Q. What's it like batting off the paparazzi?
A. If primary threes count as paparazzi, then it's actually quite a skill.
Q. Were you nervous at the beginning?
A. Yes, I was shaking and sweating buckets.
Q. How was the audition process?
A. It was grueling! I was the lucky number one out of 40 people!
Q. Did you make a lot of friends?
A. Yes, but my elevated status made it hard at first.
Q. Was the experience enjoyable?
A. It was unforgettable!

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'MicMacs'

This year, the Higher French students went to see MicMacs by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. We went because we are studying 'Amelie' as part of our course. The plot of 'MicMacs' is quite dark and involves the main character getting shot in the head. He then discovers two secret agencies, one who shot him and the other responsible for his father's death. He finds solitude in a dump, where he meets a dysfunctional family. They then plot against these agencies and disaster ensues.

There were many similarities between the two films. Both were very surreal and had similar well-plotted storylines. Characters featured in 'Amelie' were also present in 'MicMacs.' Both these films have fairytale endings, with both main characters finding love. Jean-Pierre Jeunet has a very different style compared to most directors and this movie was very unusual. Also, there is contrast between these two movies: 'Amelie' isn't action packed whereas 'MicMacs' involved bullets and land mines. These two French films are excellent and we would recommend them to people interested in French film and culture!

Samantha Bryceland, Suzy Nairn and Allyson Stewart

WOSIS September 2010

The West of Scotland Independent Schools (WoSIS) course is a three day music event that takes place twice a year in September and March. In September applicants simply have to be over a certain standard of playing on their chosen instrument and registered for the weekend event. This starts on Friday after school - which in most cases turns out to be a mad rush - and finishing on the Sunday night with an informal concert for parents and friends. On the other hand the March course requires an audition and lasts from the Friday night until the Monday night when there is a formal public concert in the RSAMD - we even get to wear a cheeky little WOSIS tie!

This September the course ran from Friday 17th until Sunday 19th and it was the turn of The Glasgow Academy to host the yearly event. The course consists of three bands: string orchestra, wind band and jazz band- which includes some of the best school-aged players in the west of Scotland.

After fighting our way through the rush hour traffic and dealing with a taxi driver who didn't know where Byres Road was, we arrived, registered and congregated in the assembly hall of The Glasgow Academy. We were already too tired to function…but then had to sight read five brand new pieces! Every group was assigned their own rehearsal space and the rehearsals began without time for an introduction from the people sitting on either side of you.

It took only a few minutes into the first break for the budding musicians to sniff out the many chippies, carry outs and supermarkets available just a two minute walk away. This was a great way to keep our spirits high after the hours of practice on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

By the concert on Sunday night all trace of self doubt had disappeared and had been replaced with self belief, anticipation and excitement for the upcoming performance. The jazz band kicked off the night playing pieces such as: 'The Incredibles' theme tune and a selection of songs from the musical 'Chicago'. The String orchestra followed by playing 'The Cancan'. Then, to finish in style, the wind band played Disney songs including 'Tico Tico' and 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'.

The aim of the weekend was to improve you as a player and also to let you meet and to socialise with new people who have the same musical interests as you do; I think anyone who attended this weekend event would agree that it was an extremely rewarding and entertaining weekend- certainly different from a typical teenager's weekend!

Amy Cameron and Sammy Bryceland.

Jordanhill Feeling Festive

5 days before Christmas, Jordanhill Magazine saw that the school was looking very festive. There was ceilidh music booming from the hall, decorations adorning the halls and the excited chit chatter of young boys and girls.

Primary Three Christmas Party

When we arrived the Christmas party was in full swing, boys and girls managing some tricky steps- even the teachers too! They were doing 'The Dhoon' and then as time progressed, the Santa hats came off and '5, 6, 7, 8' by Steps begun! Even the sixth year helpers got involved, getting right in there with the freestyle. The primary three's seemed to be having a great time, no doubt due to plentiful sweeties and great music. All in all, it seemed like a good time.

Primary Six Beauty Workshop

Some of the primary sixes were getting their hair and makeup done courtesy of the DIWT team. When we walked in, festive music was playing and the smell of hairspray and nail polish enveloped the room. The girls were all in high spirits as their hair was curled and nails done. Their dance was tonight and they were looking ready to shine! We left them in peace before getting some shots of them all done up.

Suzy Nairn

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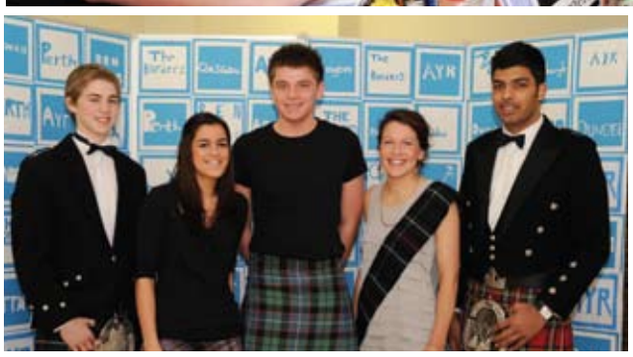
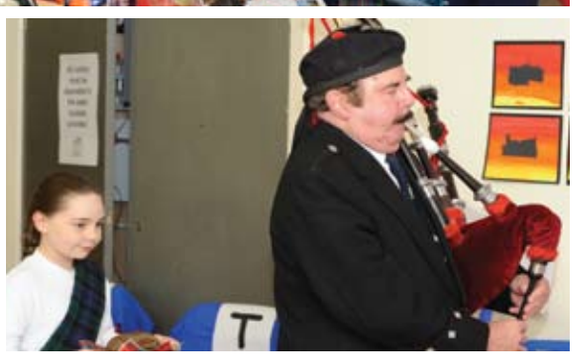
Christmas Dances 2010

Primary 6 Burns Supper





All photographs of school events can be viewed and ordered online from Alan Bryant Photography. Simply go to the school web site and click on Photographs Online.

Jordanhill School
45 Chamberlain Road, Glasgow, G13 1SP
Tel: 0141 576 2500 **Fax:** 0141 576 2555
Email: friends@jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk
Web: www.jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk

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