Jordanhill School

Journal

March 2015

Rector

The March 2015 edition of the Journal offers the usual eclectic mix of articles on school life, news from former pupils and historical items from 75 and 50 years ago.

In 1939-40 the school was evacuated in the early stages of the war and it is interesting to read Andrew Walker's account (page 28) alongside the sports reports for the session – the life of a school goes on regardless of the circumstances.

In 1964 the opportunity afforded Peter Nisbet to tour Canada was unique (page 30). Today pupils and staff think little of jetting around the world. One of our pupils spent time in India last term while some of our Physics students have recently returned from CERN (one of the 7 wonders of the modern world) and I visited China in November. We hope you enjoy reading about these trips.

This summer our musicians will be touring Lake Garda and visiting Venice and in July 2016 pupils in the then S6 have the opportunity to participate in an expedition to Peru which we last visited in 1999. No doubt you will hear more about both events in future editions.

Jordanhill has become something of a powerhouse in distance running in recent years (page 12) winning multiple medals in Glasgow and Scottish road and cross-country events. A number of current and former pupils are currently representing Scotland and the UK.

I should like to congratulate Rosemary Winter-Scott the former convenor of our Board on the award of her OBE. Rosemary retires later this year and we wish her and husband Peter a long and happy retirement.

As the summer term beckons let me extend an invitation to all to participate in the golf outings, to join us on Sports Day Saturday 13th June and to attend the reunion dinner on Friday 19th June. We look forward to seeing you over the coming months.

Paul W. Thomson

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Current and back copies of the Journal can be viewed via the Alumni page on our web site.

Reunion Dinner 2015

Our quinquennial reunion dinner for former pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school takes place on Friday 19th June 2015 in the school.

Both the north and south campus buildings will be open from 6.00pm. Pupils will be showcasing their musical talents alongside an exhibition of works from Art, Graphics and Design & Manufacture.

Following the reception, a four course dinner with wines will be served in the hall. Entertainment will be provided by All That Malarkey who will perform two sets for us.

Full details including the menu can be found via our alumni web page. Tickets price £55 are fully inclusive.

Book now to avoid disappointment!

- Online via our alumni page
- E-mail jo_hamiltons@jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk
- Telephone 0141 576 2500

Golf Outings 2015

Tuesday 12th May 2015
Hayston Golf Club
Tee-off 2.00pm
Deposit £10.00

Tuesday 15th September 2015
Clydebank & District Golf Club
Tee-off 2.00pm
No deposit required

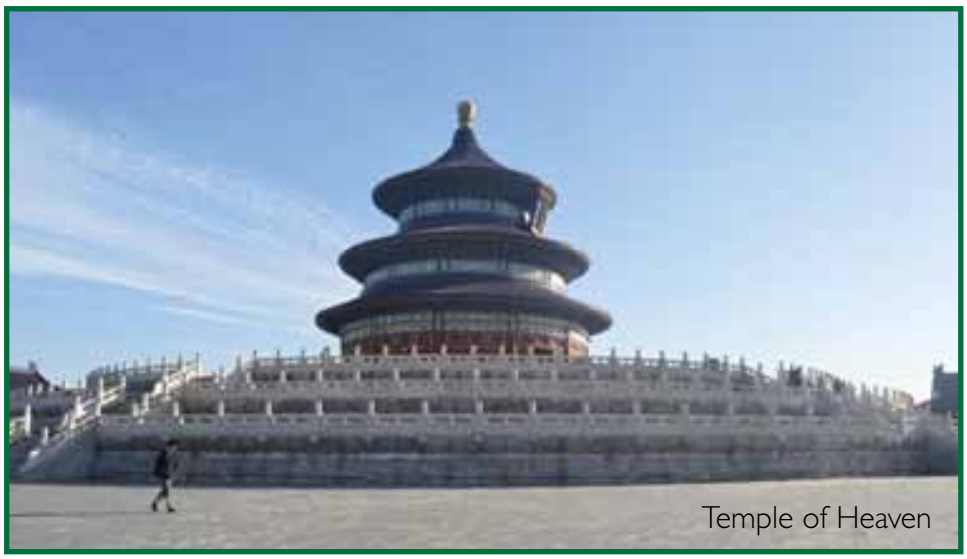
Our outings are open to anyone with a close association with the school including spouses and partners. As usual High Tea and Prize Giving will take place after the golf. Please complete and return the pro-forma available from the school office or the web site

I look forward to seeing you at this year's outings.

Joyce Tait, Secretary

China

Expanding and deepening educational links is one of the four key priorities in the Scottish Government's strategy for engagement with the People's Republic of China. In recent years we have seen the establishment of a number of Confucius Institutes at Scottish universities and Confucius Classrooms in schools.


Temple of Heaven

Extensive contacts exist at a strategic level and this led to my involvement from March 2014 in a project sponsored by The British Council and Education Scotland.'*International Collaboration for School Improvement*' explores models of school self-evaluation in Scotland and China where, of course, there is a different and more centralised approach to development even in the special administrative regions.

As a member of the Board of the Scottish Qualifications Authority I have been well aware that SQA has been offering Higher National Diplomas in partnership with the Chinese Service for Scholarly Exchange since 2003. 31 universities in China are delivering HND programmes. To date nearly 20,000 Chinese students have received HND awards and approximately two thirds go on to complete degree programmes in the UK, USA, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

In July the British Council advertised the '*2014 Chinese Bridge for UK Schools*' which, supported by Hanban, provides an opportunity for principals from UK school to visit China. Thus in November 2014 I found myself touching down at Beijing airport - one of over 50 participants flying in from various locations around the UK to spend 7 days learning about China and visiting Chinese schools and colleges.

The key aims of my visit were to gain further insight into China's education system and their processes of school self-evaluation, to understand their approaches to learning and teaching and to explore options for a Confucius Classroom to be sited at Jordanhill. The last of these came to the fore in August when the Scottish Government indicated that they wished to see the School implement its policy on Modern Languages 1+2.

In China all children attend Primary school from age 6 to 11 then progress to Junior Secondary (12-15). Senior secondary (16-18) is highly meritocratic with an increasing variety of pathways including senior high, polytechnic, technical and vocational senior high schools. Parents pay fees in Senior High (roughly 3% of average annual household income) with class sizes of around 45.

Confucius Classrooms

Hanban is the headquarters of the Confucius Institute which provides Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services worldwide.

A Confucius Classroom provides access to teaching resources and importantly to Chinese teachers spending a year in the UK.

Modern Languages 1+2 envisages that by 2020 all pupils will commence a second language (L2) in P1 and progress this through to Secondary. A third language (L3) will be introduced from P5, but this will focus more on cultural learning and need not be taught in Secondary.

At Jordanhill L2 will be French. If a Confucius Classroom is sited here, then Mandarin would become a viable option for L3.

The sheer scale of the educational endeavour is perhaps difficult to imagine. I spent two days in the city of Tianjin some 3 hours drive south east of Beijing. Scotland has close relationships with Tianjin which is the main city of the Bohai Gulf Rim and a centre of transportation and industry serving Beijing and north-east China. It has a population of 12M (double that of Scotland) and some 3,000 schools and 130,000 teachers serving 1.75M pupils.

I spent a day at Weishanlu High School with whom we now have a formal partnership. The school has 1700 pupils, 500 of whom come from Xinjian Autonomous Region some 3,000km west of Tianjin. There are, of course, vast difference between the affluent, urbanised areas of China and the remote regions where educational opportunities are more limited. Pupils are selected on merit to attend senior high school in the eastern cities with a view to gaining entry to China's prestigious universities on completion of the College Entrance Examinations. This is a life-changing opportunity for them.

The importance of the College Entrance Exams for all Chinese students cannot be overstated. The outcomes shape their future lives. The achievement of Chinese students, notably in Shanghai, has been much lauded in recent international comparisons, but I wonder how our students would respond to the typical day of a Weishanlu pupil?

The whole school take part in exercises every morning – 1700 pupils set out like the Praetorian guard doing their stretching exercises followed by running round the track in strict formation is an impressive sight. That is their morning interval.

In their final year at school the pupils work 7 days per week and all creative, aesthetic and sporting subjects are dropped from the curriculum.

What was evident was the quality of the relationships between the staff and the pupils. There was a relaxed, if disciplined, atmosphere and clearly respect on both sides.

I had lunch with some very engaging Xinjian pupils - no doubt chosen because of their qualities, but nevertheless what came across was how similar they are to our own young people. Age 16 and 17 English is their third language. Mandarin is not their native tongue.

Weishanlu Day

- Rise 6.00am
- Exercise then Breakfast
- Classes 8-11.30
- Lunch and sleep 11.30-1.30
- Classes 1.30-4.30
- Dinner
- Homework 7-9

Xinjian pupils attend school 10 months of the year going home only in the summer. They sleep 8 to a room (about the size of my office).

In senior high there are only two curricular pathways on offer. All pupils do Chinese, Mathematics and English. Those in the **Science** pathway also do Biology, Chemistry and Physics while the **Liberal Arts** students do Politics, History and Geography.

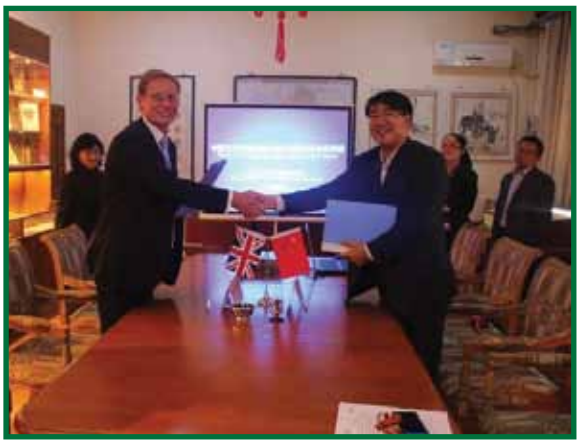
Physics and maths are universal languages and I could have taught the final year Physics class I visited – components of a force down a slope. The music-making and arts classes reflected local culture, but could equally have been in the Scotland. What is different is the pedagogical process. The cooperative learning and active learning approaches you would see in our classrooms are simply not possible with 45 pupils in one room. The pupils (with their very large piles of books) stay put for most of the day and the teachers rotate round. The classrooms are therefore generalist and lack the specialist equipment one would see in our science labs and other areas. This was the general picture from those of us visiting senior high schools. However, colleagues visiting primaries did see the kind of approaches to learning now encouraged in Scotland.

It is perhaps like stepping back in time some 50-60 years to the post-war baby boom in Britain. Population pressures, mass education and the desire to upskill the population still dominate, but things are changing. The rules around the one child policy have been relaxed. Parents and society are beginning to question the stresses arising from the College Entrance Examinations. Increasing affluence is changing expectations and many more private schools are opening.

The economic transformation of China is evident everywhere. Like me you may never have heard of Tianjin before this. Yet it has a centre which on scale anyway is akin to Washington D.C. containing a magnificent theatre, a Science museum, a Natural History museum, a History museum and a library around a large lake and civic spaces.

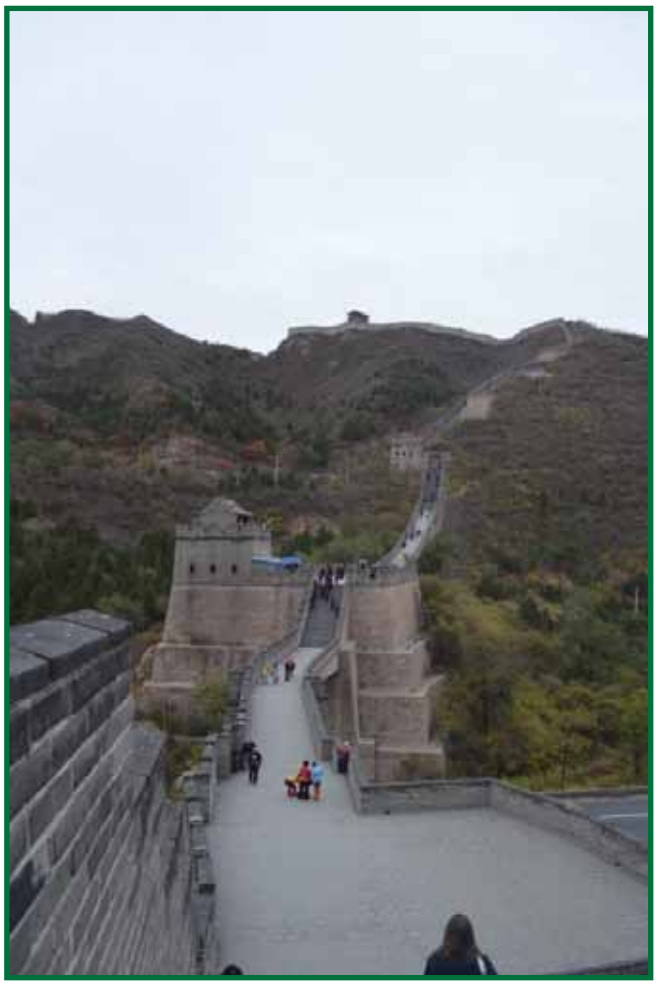
Next door is the most affluent shopping centre I have ever seen. Similar in size to Silverburn on the outskirts of Glasgow but containing nothing but designer shops on four levels. If you need Gucci, Prada or any other brand, then this is the place to go. However, you will pay exactly the same prices as in Europe. What was evident is that such places are well beyond the means of almost all Chinese citizens including teachers. Enormous disparities in wealth have emerged in China as they have across the developed economies.

Of course, "copies" of every conceivable designer good are available everywhere including the official shopping centre for such items in Beijing – be prepared to haggle.



Tianamen Square and Forbidden Palace

At either end of the trip we had a chance to visit some of the cultural icons of Beijing including the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, Tianamen Square and the Forbidden Palace and lastly the Great Wall.



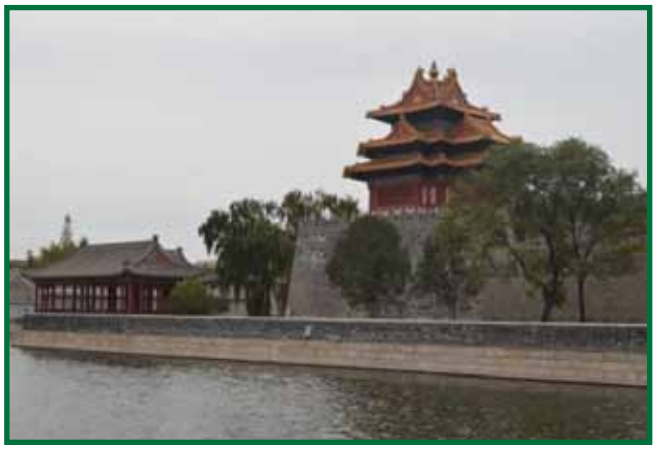
The Chinese Bridge visit is a significant event for Hanban. High level dignitaries attended and the secretary flew back from the London embassy to attend. The Tianjin group was followed everywhere by a camera and I was interviewed by a journalist from China Daily while everyone else had their lunchtime rest at Weishanlu.

It would be fair to say that I did not learn as much about the Chinese education system as I would have hoped. However, the lasting benefits of the trip are the contacts made and our partnership with Weishanlu High School. I would like to thank the principal Mr Wu and his colleagues for the warmth of the reception I received.

Following the visit we have had discussions with the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and the Scottish China Education Network. Due to our unique status we have applied directly to Hanban to site a Confucius Classroom at the school. If we are successful in this it will offer some interesting opportunities for pupils

- Teaching of Mandarin as L3 to pupils in P5-P7
- Introduction of inserts and master classes in Mandarin for pupils in S1-S3
- Culture and language inserts across the Broad General Education phase P5-S3
- A taster course in Mandarin for S5-S6 pupils with the possibility of more advanced courses in later years
- Access for pupils from neighbouring schools
- Establishing a partnership with a primary school in Tianjin
- Developing our existing partnership with Weishanlu High School

Beijing (population 20M) is a modern metropolitan city. The road traffic may be terrible from 07.00 through to 20.00 and smog is an undoubted problem, but the underground system is fantastic. I would be happy to return to Beijing and China with pupils or on holiday and would commend it to anyone thinking of visiting.



We live in interesting times.

保罗 汤姆森博士
Dr Paul Thomson
院长
Rector

China Daily article: http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2014-11/14/content_18915057.htm

Advanced Higher Physics Trip to CERN February 2015

The AH Physics class ready to set off to the Science Museum.

The Physics trip to Geneva was quite probably, and quite surprisingly, the best school trip we have been on. There was no better way to end a school career. Even someone who knows only the basics of physics will be able to tell you all about CERN.
Our hostel was much nicer than expected with good food and even a balcony. The view was only of a back street but a short walk presented a view out over Lake Geneva (Lac Leman).

A view over the Lake with Mont Blanc in the background.

We dropped our stuff off and headed to the museum of the history of science. The museum had science equipment dating back hundreds of years but also an interactive optical illusion exhibition with a room full of mirrors.

Electrostatic apparatus in the Science Museum.

After lunch we headed to the United Nations building where we were photographed at the 'three legged chair'.

The 'Three Legged Chair' outside the United Nations building. A symbolic representation of the devastation caused by landmines.

The tour of the UN was interesting but what stands out most is the stunning views out the windows with the snow-capped Swiss mountains in the background.

Inside one of the older debating chambers in the United Nations building.

On the second day after breakfast we took the tram to the end of the line the location of the CERN headquarters to learn about particle colliders. We first enjoyed an early lunch in CERN's cafeteria. This wasn't the typical everyday cafeteria as we were surrounded by scientists from places all across the world.

Enjoying some winter sun after lunch at CERN.

After lunch we made our way to 'The Globe' an interactive exhibition which had information on how CERN had developed over the 60 years and about some of the detectors. Outside 'The Globe' is 'The Ribbon of Knowledge' where all the famous equations and their creators are named in chronological order.

Suitably inspired by the 'Ribbon of Knowledge.'

After a short presentation about the work being carried out at CERN and what they were hoping to discover we went on a bus to take us to the entrance of the LHCb detector underground. Donning our hard hats we had to pass one at a time through a security gate to get into the underground tunnel. Our guide had to use her retinal recognition to get in! Taking the lift down to the bottom of the 100m shaft we saw the old particle accelerator 'Delphi' now for show which weighed as much as the Eiffel tower. The detector was by far the most interesting part of the centre as it is exactly what you imagine it will be. Hugh underground caverns brimming with machines and computers absolutely everywhere.

Beside the old Delphi detector 100m below ground, in the bowels of CERN.

Next stop was the control centre. We were met at the entrance and taken into room and given a talk about the history if CERN, where we learned some interesting facts. The screen that was being used for the talk 'magically' turned into a window through which we could see the control centre, and the many empty bottles that lined the walls.

At the famous CERN Control Centre.

That night we went to a typical Swiss restaurant at the Edelweiss Hotel where we were treated to a cheese fondue whilst enjoying traditional Swiss entertainment. The night got increasingly surreal as the two entertainers used different instruments, a bugle, trumpet, saxophone, spoons, giant horn, and several cowbells until they finished with one playing a saw like a cello and the other yodelling at the surrounding tables.

Surely the perfect way to end the trip?

Anna and Teresa assist with the entertainment at Hotel Edelweiss.

Christmas Tea Party

The annual Christmas Tea Party was another great success! For the past four years pupils in S1 together with the House Captains have organised this event for the elderly in our community. We had a fantastic turnout this year from residents in the community and local care homes.

I was lucky enough to greet everyone on arrival. It was especially lovely to speak to a couple in their 70s who were former pupils of the school. The gentleman had even brought along some of the sporting medals he had won while here.

On the day the audience were entertained by some very talented pupils including singers, guitar and saxaphone recitals. We also had a raffle with the prizes generously donated by local businesses. Of course, being a tea party, we had some scrumptious cakes made by S1 and their parents.

The other facet of the event was a collection of food parcels which were donated to the Store House for distribution to local people in need at Christmas. S1 should be very proud of their efforts in planning and running the tea party and collecting for Store House.

The day could not have been as special and rewarding without the help of Dr MacMillan, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Robertson. Thank you to them for the opportunity to give something back to our community.

Taylor Sutherland
Montgomerie House Captain

Store House

For some members of society Christmas is not the joyous time it should be. The strain on family and personal finances become unbearable. So it was with a real sense of purpose that S1 St John accepted the challenge of preparing hampers for Store House a local food bank.

There was an exceptional turnout of S1 at the weekly planning meetings and engagement with their assigned tasks.

A huge selection of hampers were prepared (family, female, male and child oriented) which the Captains and Vice-captains then delivered to Store House.

The enthusiasm was spectacular from all involved and it provided an experience they will never forget.

Euan MacDonald & Kareena Sandhu
(St John Captains)

Invitations

The pupils in Crawfurd were in charge of invitations for the event and regular visits were made to the S1-S3 tutor groups to get the contact details of neighbours, friends and family. We also wrote to the local care homes to extend invitations. In the end over 100 local residents attended.

Constant liaison with Montgomerie was required as they were in charge of logistics. In particular, in coordinating the catering requirements with the Refectory manager and her staff.

It was definitely worth al the time and effort when we saw all of our guests singing along to the superb entertainment and indulging in the delicious home baking.

Ryan Leonard & Kirsty Creary (Crawfurd Captains)

Running

On Saturday 7th March 2015 the S3-S4 Boys team retained the Gold medal at the Scottish Schools Cross-country Championships held at Beach Park, Irvine.

Jamie Mackinnon, Max Milarvie, Ewan Rae, Charlie Milarvie

The previous week each of the S3 and S4 Boys teams had won the Gold medals at the Glasgow Championships.They were matched in this by the P7 Girls team.

Individuals Golds were won by Gillian Black and Jamie MacKinnon featured below.

Glasgow Schools Cross Country Championships Nether Pollock 27 February 2015

Jordanhill pupils won a total of 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze medals.

Team Golds

S3 Boys: Charlie Milarvie, Finlay Smith, Matthew Bruton, Ben MacDonald, Sam McIver, Harry Davidson

S4 Boys: Jamie MacKinnon, Max Milarvie, Euan Rae, Simon Fraser, Adam Brady, Daniel Smith

Primary 7 Girls:
Romey Abu Rajab, Lucia Ward, Katie Smith, Abbie Leanord, Niamh Hay, Grace Hamilton

Individual Medals

Gold: Gillian Black, Jamie Mackinnon
Silver: Charlie Milarvie, Adie Murray, Max Milarvie
Bronze: Josh McDermott

Silver: Beth Bushell P5b, Niamh Hay P7b
Bronze: Luke Morrison P6b

Jamie MacKinnon

The wonderful tradition of cross-country running has continued this session with Jamie Mackinnon (4StJ) winning the Great Scottish Run in October.

Jamie then went on to compete for Scotland in the Celtic Games Cross Country U17 held in Dublin on Sunday 18th January 2015 coming a highly creditable 9th and was second home of the Scottish team.

Congratulations to Jamie who has been awarded an Honours tie for representing Scotland.

Gillian Black

Gillian has been one of Scotland's top distance runners for several years, wining regularly at local, national and international events. She has represented Scotland 14 times in total including, in the past year, at U17 and U20 over 3000m at the UK School Games and the School's International as well as the equivalent Cross Country events.

In August 2014 Gillian was invited to the Virgin London Marathon Young Athlete Camp for the second year as a result of her success in the London Mini Marathon in April. This was a real accolade for someone of Gillian's age and offered her a unique opportunity to work with elite coaches and internationally renowned athletes in the world class training environment of St Mary's University, Twickenham. One of the highlights of this trip was her meeting Mo Farah.

Recent Successes

- June 2014: Scottish Schools Track and Field 3000m Hampden Park 1st
- July 2014: School's International Track and Field 3000m Cardiff 3rd
- August 2014: Celtic Games Track and Field 3000m Dublin 1st
- September 2014 UK School Games Track and Field 3000m 3rd
- January 2015: Celtic Games Cross Country 1st

The UK School Games is a major multi-sport event supported by National Lottery funding from Sport England and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust. It offers a true taste of high-level competition to the UK's best school-aged competitors. The Games included an athletes' village, anti-doping education, plus opening and closing ceremonies and saw some of the country's rising sports stars compete in 12 sports in venues across Manchester.

Gillian's most recent Scottish representation was at the Celtic Games in Dublin on Sunday 18th January 2015 where she won gold in the under 20 race and was eleven seconds ahead of the silver medallist.

She also had an excellent run the weekend before (Saturday 10th January) at the Great Edinburgh Cross Country where she won the under 17 women's Inter- District race and beat four International athletes, two from Europe and two from the USA in a time of 15:55.

Celtic Games Cross Country

Great Edinburgh Cross Country

Congratulations to Gillian. We wish her continuing success in 2015.

When we arrived we huddled together at the back of the refectory before lining up from smallest to tallest. We walked nervously to the main room where our audience was waiting with great anticipation. We started by singing 'Life in a beautiful light' by Amy Macdonald.
After the song we sat down at our tables. The haggis was piped in and we listened to the 'Address to a Haggis' before enjoying some hearty fare; sausage, beans and mash.

Before I knew it, it was time for my speech, the immortal memory. I walked up to the mic. I was so nervous my knees were knocking together. When my speech was finished I got a huge round of applause. I gave a big sigh of relief; I could finally sit back and enjoy the show…

Carrick Gibb P6B

The Burns supper was great fun. It was so good I would like to go back in time to re-live the whole thing again. All the songs were well rehearsed, so were the poems too. The food was great as well, a big thank you to the refectory staff. So far this has been the best event in the Primary school.

Ruaridh Gilmour P6B

It was a thoroughly entertaining evening for both the pupils and all the guests in which we remembered and celebrated the great Scottish poet Robert Burns. We sang songs, recited poems and gave speeches. To conclude we did some ceilidh dancing in the hall and finished by signing one of his very own songs Auld Lang Syne. I`ll never forget our P6 Burns Supper. It was a great night!

Alexander Stewart P6B

New Delhi India

At the end of September 2014, I was lucky enough to go to New Delhi, India with my mum and younger sister. With a population of about 11 million, the busyness of the city was clear. To say the city was amazing, wouldn't do it justice; the vibrant colour, buzz and constant beeping of horns filled the streets, as well as the more than occasional herd of cows or camels. With so much to see and take in, I found myself not knowing where to look.

Yet, despite the great culture and "personality" portrayed by the city, I was also struck by the vast contrast in the very visible poverty and wealth. For example, in the centre of the city, there are many sky scraper buildings, the headquarters of significant international businesses and some hotels. Despite this, outside the security entrances were seas of families living on the streets. Their only way of generating income was either begging or selling a variety of hand-made goods.

My mum is part of the charity **The Leprosy Mission Scotland**, which directly supports the work of projects in the area surrounding Delhi. Leprosy is an air-borne disease that many think no longer exist. The disease cuts off the nerves in the sufferer, resulting in loss of feeling. Sufferers end up standing on sharp objects or wood splinters, which then get embedded into the skin, cause infection and then ulcers. This is a particular problem in developing countries such as India, where many individuals do not have proper, if any, footwear. Yet the main problem with leprosy is the stigma attached; many living in India think that a person has leprosy because they led a previous sinful life. Sufferers and their families are generally not welcomed in normal communities, are isolated and in some ways forced to live in special areas.

We visited Shadra Hospital, North Delhi, and several leprosy communities, run by the leprosy mission. There is a great need for such hospitals as the Indian government views it as a poor man's disease and therefore provides little funding. As well as treating patients in the hospital, a lot of their work is done in the 28 leprosy colonies around the area of Shadra. Here, they generally work with the families and those with leprosy to help them cope with their disease. For example, they educate individuals in how to look after their ulcers and how to treat and clean them. They will also fit the patient with specially fitted sandals to limit ulcer irritation and further ulcer growth. A lot of this consultation is done in the community, as many sufferers cannot afford to regularly travel to the hospital. For their families, community based enterprises are set up and then eventually run by those living in the colony. In one case, there is a women's group who make and sell small Vaseline jars. This can act as a distraction method, as well as a means of generating income for the family.

In all, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit a brand new culture and it was a great privilege to see, for myself, how different life can be like for those living in a developing country.

Kenna Francis 4Cr

A bike designed for somebody with leprosy. They can peddle with their arms instead of their legs, as some of those with leprosy end up having leg amputations.

Art Work

Advanced Higher Expressive

Robyn Black

Olivia Leven

Katie Barron

Grace Beaumont

Art Work Printmaking

SSERC Visit

Dr Paul Beaumont from the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC) visited the school in December to treat our S3 pupils to a unique science showcase!

Cannon 1

The innovative display of An Afternoon with Luminescence captivated the pupils and fitted in well with all three sciences. S3 particularly enjoyed the exciting "Iodine Clock" demonstration where they were able to see first-hand how the rate of a reaction is affected by the concentration of reactants. Each flask was prepared in such a way that when Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture was played, the reaction occurred one by one to the rhythm of 15 consecutive cannons in the piece- causing an instant colour change.

Thank you very much Dr Beaumont!

Cannon 5

Awaiting cannon 15!

Rosemary Winter-Scott OBE

The former convenor of the Board of Managers Rosemary Winter-Scott was awarded an OBE by the Queen at Buckingham Place on 9th October 2014. Rosemary was accompanied by her husband Dr Peter Scott and her daughter Elizabeth Scott (S6). Rosemary is The Accountant in Bankruptcy for Scotland and her citation was for "*services to Insolvency in Scotland and to education through Jordanhill School*". The Queen wondered whether insolvency was depressing , but Rosemary explained that for many people bankruptcy is a positive move as it allows them to make a clean break and move on without debt.

Her Majesty then asked how education linked into the insolvency work. Rosemary explained that though her organisation was keen to have education as a part of the insolvency process to help people learn to manage their finances, her role with Jordanhill School had been as Convenor of their Board for 5 years.

Congratulations to Rosemary on her award.

(The Rector would like to reassure everyone that the school will never have need of Rosemary's professional services.)

George at 75

At the age of 75, George McFarlane is currently the oldest member of staff at the school.

George works part-time as technician in the Design & Technology department. He came to work here in January 2010 having retired from his full-time joinery post. He had previously been involved in a wide range of projects around the school in that capacity. Apart from the preparation and support he carries out in D&T, George's work can also be seen around the school. For example, in the music instrument stands outside the instruction rooms.

George is pictured with the Rector being presented with a quaich to mark the occasion of his birthday.

Greetings from Sweden

I've just been sent a copy of the October 2013 edition of the Jordanhill School Journal (a bit belated, I know) by my Mum who apparently got a bit of a surprise when she was sat at the kitchen table, reading through the various articles and saw the story that I wrote back in 1988 ("A Train Journey through Europe", p. 25-26). In fact, saying she got a bit of a surprise is maybe an understatement. More like she almost fell off her seat.

Her reaction is a bit easier to understand when timing of the publication, which could not have been more apt, is taken into account and especially when you realise the relevance of the content of the story to what was going on in our lives only a mere matter of weeks prior to that. You might well call it a case of real life mirroring fiction.

Going back to the original story, I have a vague recollection of writing it for the magazine all those years ago. Is it really almost 27 years? When I read it now it says something about my imagination as at that time, although I'd travelled far and wide with my Dad who was Chief Engineer on a container ship, I had never ventured further into continental Europe than the western coastal regions of Germany, the Low Countries and France. There are definitely a few points spread throughout the story that are based on real experiences and things I'd seen or heard but for the main part it is simply a product of the imagination.

Back to September 2013 and I'm flying into Vienna, only my second visit to the city. However, I'm not stopping as I have to drive across to Bratislava in Slovakia, a journey bringing with it thoughts of crossing the old "iron-curtain". However, I'm only going there to pick up one of my brothers as we have a good few miles to go.

Getting to the Hungarian border, it is completely open. No gun-toting soldiers checking papers or confiscating recording equipment any more. I guess that would have come as quite a relief if we'd been thinking about it as we had several cameras with us.

Unbelievably, my parents have travelled by train, following the route described in the 1988 story (except for swapping the channel ferry for a train-ride through the Eurotunnel), meeting up with us in a pleasant western Hungarian town.

No onward journey into Russia and Ukraine but a wedding party that went on long into the following day as one of my brothers got married to a Hungarian girl.

Definitely an "unsurpassed once-in-a-lifetime event".

How the world has changed since we were in school, writing stories. But then that is a story in itself.

Regards,
Donald McCarthy, Eskilstuna, Sweden

I noticed you were looking for old school group photos etc. I've attached a copy of the photo of the Primary School Monitors from 1983-84.

Primary Monitors 1983-84

Back: Stephanie Buchanan, Edward Parton, Elspeth McLean, Andrew Glen, Karen Spark, Euan Thompson, Elizabeth Jamieson, Donald McArthy, Jane Fleming
Front: Mr Cram, Louise Hall, Robert Semple, Ruth Pearson, David Simandi, Fiona Smith, Norman Williamson, Mrs Mann
(Absent: Paul Culpan)

Greetings from New Zealand

I would like to say how much I enjoy keeping in touch with what's happening in Jordanhill and seeing how the school is blossoming - it's only dimly reminiscent of the Jordanhill College School I once knew and loved - being a product of the 21st century with more camps, trips, events, outings, technology and also vastly more multicultural although in my days I was lucky to be friends at school with girls from both Norway and Hungary.

The last time I was in touch was in the lead up to the 2010 reunion and had a lovely exchange with Etta Galbraith, so it was with both dismay and sadness I read of her death in 2012. She did seem such a lovely person.

I look back and realise how fortunate we were to be members of the Jordanhill College School community and it seems that today's students are no less so.

My own children and grandchildren have been educated in New Zealand. I'm not sure if the change of times or the change of countries is the main factor, but my husband (also a Glaswegian) and I often notice that we know, and find quite unremarkable, things the young ones have barely heard of. Though I have to admit the reverse is true too - though we are reasonably techno-savvy they are the masters there!

With my best wishes

Nan Cowan (FP 1953-1966)
Christchurch, New Zealand

Class of 1963

On 3rd October 2014, thirty-four of us from the class of '64 met up in the school for an evening's re-union. After the recognition hurdle, we were able, over a glass of champagne, to admire how the school premises had certainly improved since our day, before enjoying a fine meal in a beautifully-decorated staffroom – which we could only remember as a couple of primary classrooms at the end of the ground floor corridor. Many had travelled a fair distance from the north, east, west and south of Britain to be present, and we welcomed three intrepid travellers from further afield – Dorothy (nee) Young from France, Roger Nisbet from California and PeterTwiss from Canada, via Norway and a fog delay at Heathrow Airport!

There was much chat, of course, and the more loquacious adjourned at throwing-out time to a local hostelry. A good time was had by all, and thanks must go for the helpful co-operation of the school, with Rector, Paul Thomson, staying to welcome us all personally, and Sheena Hamilton, Depute Bursar, giving us much practical assistance in putting everything together. We would certainly recommend such an evening to other class.

Kirsteen Maclean

To the tune of the Eton Boat Song:

Fifty years and counting –
how have the years flown by
Since we came here together, in shirt and new school tie.
And now we are back together,
and some from quite far away,
And we all recognise one another –
tho' labels may save the day!

Back row:
Alasdair Campbell, David Morgan,Jeremy Cockroft, William Weir, Robin Hastie, John Wilson, Russell Glen, Alan Watt, Peter Stewart, David Allan, Roy Potter. Middle Row: Kenneth McCreadie, Pat Reid, Joan Ross, Jean Beer, Moira Anderson, Morag Orr, Alastair Woodburn, David Bunyan, Roger Nisbet, Sandy Selkirk.

Front Row:
Carol Hippolite, Dorothy Young, Lesley Elder, Kay Bissett, Pat Walton, Kathleen Bain, Kirsteen Grant, Lorna Lockerbie, Sheila Thomson, Isabelle Taylor, Helen Dawson, Marjory Murchie.

Reunion 1961

A group of former pupils from 1961 gathered for dinner at Hughenden in September. Following a successful evening they kindly donated £50 each to Clic Sergeant and the Hillhead-Jordanhill Club.

Standing L to R
Alastair Kerr, Joyce McIrvine (nee Johnson), Gordon McGibbon, Madeline Sherwood (nee Salisbury), Matthew Sneddon, Donald Cameron, Murray Taylor, John Hewitt, Michael Paterson
Seated L to R
Lana MacDonald (nee Jonker), Iain Orr, Audrey Marchant (nee Johnson), Charles Inglis

The Gondoliers

We were intrigued to receive original photographs of the 1961 production of the Gondoliers from Major Moncur in Camberley, Surrey who had retrieved them from the estate of his friend the late Peter Clifford. Peter was a former British Airways captain and keen amateur photographer who lived in Glasgow in this period.

The performance took place at what had been the Empress Theatre sited in St George's Road. This went through a few name changes in the early 1960s - from The Empress, to The Falcon then finally the New Metropole.

The original report from the 1961 school magazine is reproduced here.

Joanna Donaldson, Librarian and archivist

Operatic Society 1961

This year's production of the Gondoliers marks the fifteenth year of the society. It will be the second time the school has produced this opera and this year it is to be in the New Falcon Theatre, on the nights of 23rd and 24th June.

Thanks are due to Mr. Wyllie and Miss Docherty whose patience in handling the musical direction and production respectively has been an encouragement to us all. We also thank Miss Moodie, our wardrobe mistress, Mr. Currie and Joyce Templeman, our accompanists, Mr. McNair and Mr Dodds, our stage managers, Mr. McDonald, our business manager, and all others whose help is necessary for the success of the production. I should also like to thank the girls on the Committee for making teas before our regular Thursday rehearsals.

We continue to look forward to our opening night with eager anticipation, confident that our trip to the canals and palaces of Venice will be a success up to the standard of previous school productions.

Majorie Brown Secretary.

Obituaries

Terry Branston

Terry Branston the widow of William T. Branston (Bill) who was Rector of the school from 1956-1980 has died age 90. Terry was a lecturer in music at Jordanhill College of Education, and as well as singing soprano in the SNO Chorus, the BBC Scottish Chorus and the Glasgow Singers (madrigal group), played the piano, cello, and clarinet.

The Branston family has very generously donated the beautiful Bechstein grand piano which now graces the hall. Following some minor repairs and tuning the piano was used in the finals of this session's Young Musician of the Year Competition. The winner of the senior competition is of course awarded the William T. Branston Trophy. Terry was always a great supporter of the school's musical traditions and donated the trophy following Bill's untimely death shortly after he retired.

The family has also donated a number of items of memorabilia to our archives includes Bill's 'dominie' cap which is currently on view in the display cabinet at reception. I shall greatly miss Terry and the kindness she showed me throughout my time as Rector of the school.

Paul Thomson, February 2015

Alec Colvin

With the death of Alec Colvin at the age of 82 Jordanhill School has lost a distinguished former pupil and a life-long supporter of the School and the Former Pupils Club. Many of us have also lost a very good friend.

Alec spent all his schooldays at Jordanhill, joining the First Infants class in September 1937 and completing his secondary education in the Sixth Year in June 1950. He played an active part in most school activities, and especially in sport. Alec was a leading member of the 1st XV rugby team in 1948/49 and 1949/50 and the cricket 1st XI for three years, captaining the team in 1950. He also played badminton, tennis and golf. He was captain of Montgomerie House for two years and a School prefect in 1949/50, and was a popular friend and colleague to all his classmates throughout his schooldays.

On leaving school Alec became a strong supporter of the JCS Former Pupils' Club, serving as Secretary of the General Club for some years. He played regularly for the FP Rugby Club when it was a formidable force, and became the first ever JCS former pupil to be selected for the Glasgow District team (indeed he played for the Glasgow District senior team while still at school). Later Alec was a keen member of the FP Golf Section, being one of the early winners of the Walker Cup and seldom missing one of their annual Spring and Autumn outings. I know from personal experience that he was a doughty but always sporting opponent on the golf course, especially on his home course at Hilton Park. Over the years Alec played most of the best courses around Scotland, and he specially loved the Old Course where he played regularly for many years during holidays spent in St Andrews.

Unfortunately illness and physical problems ended Alec's active participation in golf much earlier than he would have wished, but he retained a keen interest in most sports, attending live events whenever possible and later watching a wide range of sports on television. He was also proud to be on the touchline on Saturday mornings supporting his children, and in later years his grandchildren, playing rugby and hockey for the School.

Alec Colvin had a most successful business career. He qualified initially as a Chartered Surveyor, spending some years with a professional firm of surveyors before joining Maclean & Speirs, the well-known Glasgow firm of commercial and industrial painters and decorators. He spent all the rest of his career with the company, becoming a director responsible for negotiating and supervising major contracts at home and in many overseas countries. In 1978 he was honoured to be elected President of the Scottish Decorators Federation.

In 1955 Alec married a local girl, Mari Brown and they had almost sixty years of happy marriage, forty years of which were spent in their family home In Southbrae Drive. They had two sons and a daughter, all of whom attended Jordanhill School, and later four of their six grandchildren were also pupils there.

Alec always loved social company, and he and Mari were famous for their generous hospitality at Southbrae Drive and latterly in Bearsden. He was a loyal supporter of School social events, never missing any anniversary dinner, concert or conversazione, where he greatly enjoyed meeting up again with former classmates and team colleagues. He had a warm personality and a great sense of humour, which never deserted him even when his increasing health problems and spells in hospital became more difficult to cope with.

Alec's popularity was confirmed by the very large turnout and warm tributes paid at his thanksgiving service in All Saints Episcopal Church, Woodend Drive. He would have loved to be part of the mini-JCSFP re-union which took place later at the reception at Hughenden Sports Pavilion, attended by so many of his friends, neighbours and former classmates. Throughout his life Alec Colvin was a fine credit to Jordanhill School and he will be greatly missed.

Iain Mann

JOHN WILLIAMSON 1916 – 2014

One of the earliest pupils of Jordanhill College School died in December 2014 at the age of 98.

John Williamson lived from the age of 6 at 34 King Edward Road. After his parents died he lived there on his own, until his health required his admission to Balmanno Nursing Home for the last nine years of his life.

After leaving school, John worked with Customs and Excise. When war came he served in the R.A.F. in southern Africa, working in radio communications. Jordanhill Church records detail a Welcome Home celebration in November 1946, when Bibles were presented to 76 returning ex-servicemen, including John and his brother Roy.

Jordanhill Church played a vital part in his life. He was an elder for over 60 years, and served as a Reader in the Presbytery of Glasgow, taking services throughout the city as the need arose.

Another great love was cricket. For many years a member of West of Scotland Cricket Club, he spent his Saturday afternoons at Hamilton Crescent whenever possible. He trained and served as a Western Union umpire, and from 1980 he worked with the Union in the training of umpires. He was a great friend of the Rev James Aitchison, the cricketing minister of Broomhill Church, who scored a century for Scotland against the touring Australian team in 1956. John lived frugally, so far as spending on himself was concerned, but he was one of the first in Jordanhill to have satellite television, so that he could watch the Ashes from Australia.

It was his involvement with Jordanhill Crusaders, however, which made him so well known to successive generations of Jordanhill Schoolboys. Having joined the group as a boy, he was a leader from 1939 to 1970, with a break only for war service. John played many parts in the wider Crusader movement, being on committees and leading canvas camps both in Scotland and in England. For some years he visited groups throughout the Scottish mainland and the isles to encourage and advise leaders. He would plan these trips meticulously, because it was not easy for a man who didn't drive to get round the vagaries of public transport in reaching faraway places, often at inconvenient times. He was once teased about his lack of a car. In these days we piled boys into cars for outings, football matches and the like. "Did he not feel it was the duty of a Crusader leader to drive boys around to activities?" John answered quite seriously. "No. I don't miss a car. It gives me the opportunity to walk round the district, and when I am passing a boy's home, I pray for him and for his family."

It was that concern that made John the successful youth leader that he was. Boys knew that he was interested in them as individuals, that he wanted God's best for them. Many were grateful to him. This was shown by the remarkably high attendance at a Thanksgiving Service held appropriately in Jordanhill Church in January.

Ian Anderson and Norris Thompson

1939-1940

It is probably only right in the midst of the historic events of to-day to place on record how Jordanhill College School has been affected by the War and how it has sought to play its part in these difficult times.

On August 26th, 1939 in accordance with Government instructions, the pupils who desired to be evacuated and the Staff returned to school. Some of the staff heard the summons in the most remote places but by various contrivings reached Glasgow in time. On August 28th there was an Evacuation Rehearsal and on August 29th the school re-opened for the session. On Saturday 2nd September, 306 pupils and Staff were evacuated to Gartmore and Aberfoyle. As far as actual evacuation was concern it was a complete success. One need not comment on the many difficulties that arose, but a tribute must be paid to the sp0lendid efforts of the school staff to do everything possible to make the whole scheme work well.

At Gartmore – once the "settling-in" process had been completed – the primary pupils were educated in the village school (half-time) under four and latterly under three members of staff. The numbers gradually declined for a variety of reasons and as only 10 pupils were left after the Christmas vacation they were absorbed into the village school and all members of Staff were recalled. The Primary pupils in Aberfoyle, Dykehead and Ruskie were taught in the local schools by local staff.

The Secondary pupils were educated in Gartmore by our own staff (four and latterly three in number) in a disused church hall and then in a village club. The number steadily declined and the IVth, Vth and VIth year pupils together with any brothers and sisters in the Secondary Department were transferred to Cally House, Gatehouse of Fleet, since facilities in Gartmore for a suitable secondary education did not exist. After Christmas only four secondary pupils were left and they went to Balfron High School. Secondary pupils at Ruskie went to the McLaren High School, Callendar, while those at Dykehead and Aberfoyle attended at Aberfoyle. In the Supplementary Evacuation four pupils went to Glenluce and are attending Stranraer High School.

Hockey

We returned to School on October of last year to discover that there remained only four of last season's 1st XI. However, with Miss Cochrane's able assistance, we managed to raise a first eleven. As other Schools found their teams in the same depleted condition, it was March before fixtures could be arranged. Even then we had but two matches – both with Laurel Bank School. The first match resulted in a win for Jordanhill, and the return match was drawn.

Cricket 1ST XI

The team this year was strong and, although there was a number of a young member, the standard of play was high throughout the season. P.R. Anderson headed the batting and bowling with averages of 12·7 and 6·6 respectively. R. Heeps was second in the batting averages and R. Evans in the bowling.

Of the 16 matches played 9 were won, 5 lost and 2 drawn.

Rugby

Owing to the interference of the evacuation scheme and the severe cold spell which we experienced at the beginning of this year, we had no fixtures with other Schools; however, this was made up for in part by the Inter-House games, which aroused a great deal of enthusiasm. The first games were played on a Wednesday afternoon and the results were a draw between Montgomerie and Smith, and a win for St. John's over Crawford and the stage was set for as thrilling a game as the School has seen for a long time. Smith and St. John were equal and were playing the final game. Smith scored in the first minute and held their 5 point lead till almost the end when St. John started pressing hard and succeeded in scoring. The last second of the game saw St. John try disallowed for offside and Smith ran off winners.

To meet the needs of those pupils who remained in Glasgow the co-operation of the parents was sought in the provision of rooms in private houses where education might be continued, and the remaining members of staff, aided by graduate students from the College, taught groups of pupils in many houses. The Secondary pupils, from 2nd year upwards, were accommodated in one house. The school is grateful indeed to the parents who respond so nobly to the many calls made upon them. Without their kindness our plans would have fallen through. The teaching of these groups started in the 2nd week in September and practically all of them were at work by the end of that month. By Christmas about 400 pupils were included in this scheme.

In the beginning of December the provision of Air Raid Shelters at School was started and the pupil of the upper classes of the Secondary Department met in the School. The completion of the shelters was continued during the usual Christmas vacation and fortunately by 8th January, 1940, the whole school was able to resume the normal work for the normal time in the school buildings.
Since then it has been our constant endeavour to keep all our activities going in the normal fashion. At the time of writing a most successful Sports Meeting has been held and it is still hoped that the curtain may be rung down on this eventful session with our usual Prize Day towards the end of June.

I wish to state here how much indebted I am to all Members of Staff who have not only discharged their duties most efficiently, as was to be expected, but have gone out of their way to do everything possible for the continued education and welfare of the children in their charge. They should know that they could not have made a greater contribution to their country in this hour of stress.

Andrew Walker, Rector

Back Row—N. E. McCartney, G. C. Arneil, R. A. McKaig, G. T. Dickson (*Captain*), W. R. Stewart, R. C. P. Hunter.

Middle Row—D. M. K. Shearer, D. M. Weir (*Captain*), Mr. Walker, U. M. Bissett (*Former Captain*), K. M. Primrose.

Front Row—M. R. McFarlane, E. M. McInnes, M. S. MacCallum, G. M. Cunningham.

The W. H. Rhodes Tour to Canada 1964

What impression do you have of Canada? Is it a vision of rolling prairies or industrial towns, of the Rocky Mountains or the Great Lakes, of trouble-makers in Quebec or affluent, one-time colonists in Ontario? Do you think of one of the largest countries in the world, one which nevertheless has a population of less than twenty million? Or do you merely imagine a miniature U.S.A., but perhaps not quite so bad? Or again do you find yourself, possibly a little guiltily, realising that you have no clear impression at all? This was my feeling after Mr. Branston offered me the chance of joining the 1964 Rhodes' Tour (my feeling, that is, after the initial absolute amazement had worn off).

> "The object of this visit is to enable you to form an idea of the magnitude and importance of Canada and to understand something of the everyday life of its people; every assistance will be given you to acquire as much knowledge as possible in the time available, and your main object should be to avail yourself fully of such opportunity."
>
> W.H. Rhodes, C.B.E.

The participants (all boys) are drawn from secondary schools of the cities where Mr. Rhodes had business interests, and the party is now made up of 16 students from London, and 8 from each of Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow and Manchester – forty-eight in all.

The tour in Canada consists of a land tour broken by a spell at a camp in the Ontario Northland. Since the editor of this magazine asked me for an article "larded with human interest", I do not intend to include many details of the itinerary, this tending to read like a diary. However, to give some semblance of order to what follows, let me mention that after arriving at Montreal, we were in Toronto, Hamilton, the Niagara peninsula, and Sudbury, before proceeding to camp. After a welcome few days' rest we returned, via Ottawa, to Montreal.

In Toronto, we visited the meat packing plant of Canada Packers Ltd., the largest in the Commonwealth, and a place you "nose" well before reaching it. The plant may be considered a production line where (mainly) cattle go in one end and tinned meat comes out the other. In fact they go one step better. As the beasts are made to climb to roof level before being slaughtered, each stage in the line being slightly lower, the cattle save the firm the expense of moving their carcasses. Mid-way through the afternoon, after watching cattle being slaughtered, skinned, and so on right down the line, we changed smells by moving on to the firm's very extensive research laboratories.

At the Canadian generating plant situated a few miles below the Niagara falls we were shown a film illustrating the geological formation of the area and the planning and construction of Niagara's hydro-electric system. Afterwards we were taken to the generating floor and control room. In the afternoon of the same day, there was a visit to the Ontario Paper Company's mill at nearby Thorold. Space, unfortunately, does not permit me to include the fascinating story of why a Chicago newspaper, using wood from the forests of Quebec province, set up a paper mill in the Niagara peninsula, nor to elaborate on the mill itself.

Niagara Falls in 1964

The equation Sudbury = nickel represents the total knowledge most British schoolboys have of Sudbury. In most cases even this is merely a vague recollection of one entry in a list of Canadian towns and industries frantically swotted up the night before some geography exam. Therefore few, if any, of us had imagined the magnitude and complexity of the International Nickel Company - the open mines, the crushing plant, the separation plant, giant roasters and furnaces, and great floatation bays. Finally we were shown the production of some unexpected "extras" – the copper refining and the extraction of precious metals.

During the tour we visited the universities at Toronto and Hamilton plus both Montréal universities, McGill (English speaking) and l'Université de Montréal (French speaking). The university visits were interesting in two ways: those of us studying science subjects were shown round the labs, and told something of the research work being done, and there was the opportunity to hear and talk to members of the staff, both in formal talks and in informal conversation. In this context may I single out our visit to l'Université de Montréal where we were given an excellent and balanced resume of the French and English culture patterns in Quebec province, and also a meal in Toronto, where one of the professors, at the same table as myself, gave us, in instalments between courses, his opinions of the economic and political difficulties facing a country, over eighty per cent of which is owned by foreigners (Americans).

Our first glimpses of the country came during the long sail up the St. Lawrence. We did not have long to wait before experiencing it at first hand, the afternoon of the first day ashore being spent at a camp for (mainly) orphan boys beside a lake in the Laurentian Highlands, about forty miles north of Montreal. Our next real taste of fresh air came after the main part of the land tour, at Camp Wanapetei in the Ontario Northland. Opinions of camp varied more than a little. In a formal vote of thanks which I had to give in Ottawa for all the hospitality we had received in Canada, I played safe and described Camp Wanapetei as "distinctly memorable". Although for more than half our stay we had rain which would have done credit to the Scottish Highlands, among the highlights were a two-day canoe trip on a nearby lake, climbing a ninety foot high forest watch tower and imagining the view we might have had, an afternoon of canoe races in wild weather, and the forty mile lake journey to and from camp on Lake Temagami (Indian for "deep Waters").

Understanding something of the everyday life of its people was the most important aspect of the tour and by far the most difficult one about which to write a few paragraphs. The very large number of people we met, all with individual characteristics and peculiarities, makes my predicament greater. To offer an idea of the variety and number of personalities encountered, even during such a short stay

- the lady at the observation tower by the Niagara Falls who, hearing that some of us were Scottish, concluded that we would have no money, and let us up free
- the student who considered Goldwater the best thing to hit the earth this century,
- the same student who genuinely believed that Kennedy had had communist sympathies
- the camper at Wanapetei, who, having spent three months in Glasgow, wanted to know if the rain had gone off yet
- the speakers in the Federal parliament where we watched the first hour of the seventeenth day (I think) of the debate about the new Canadian flag
- the shop assistant in Montreal who was so delighted when spoken to in French
- the man in a Hamilton Cafe who asked if Scotland was near Liverpool and many others about whom you would be reading now if there were not better articles with which to fill the magazine.

Roger M. Nisbet

Toronto and Niagara Falls from March 2010 edition of Journal

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