

REFLECTIONS

A booklet to commemorate the Centenary
of Scarborough's Gladstone Road Schools

FOREWORD BY SIR WILLIAM GLADSTONE

I am honoured, as the great grandson of William Ewart Gladstone, to be asked to write a message of goodwill at the time of your centenary. I write from the house which was his home for fifty years and from which many of the decisions of the government were taken, decisions which affected not only Britain, but the huge British Empire, "the Empire on which the sun never set". The year 1989 is the 150th anniversary of Mr. Gladstone's wedding here at Hawarden, and some 120 of his descendants with their spouses met here earlier this year to celebrate the event. The year 1989 is also the 180th anniversary of his birth.

Mr. Gladstone was a great European. He fought for human rights in Italy and spoke fearlessly about the plight of political prisoners there, shocking the whole civilised world, long before anyone else would have dared to do so. Later this year I am going to Bulgaria, where the streets in no less than eleven towns are named after him: for he was the person who spoke up against the atrocities in which the Turks massacred Bulgarians and pillaged their towns: they still remember him with gratitude.

To the Armenians, too, Mr. Gladstone is a hero. As those who read the newspapers know, the Armenians are still fighting for their rights. More than any other single person, Mr. Gladstone was the creator of modern British democracy, extending the right to vote from property owners to ordinary people.

There is much more that I could say about him, but I think I have said enough to assure you that you can be proud, in 1990, of the name borne by your school, and I send you my best wishes for your centenary.

October 1989

William Gladstone

I would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to this publication and in particular to those who have submitted articles, pictures and information. Thanks are also expressed to the advertisers who have helped defray the costs.

Some of the scripts have unfortunately had to be shortened. The originals will be kept in the School Archives for future reference.

July 1990

M J Grant (Editor)

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THE OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL PREMISES IN GLADSTONE ROAD

By E. Pettitt (Parent)

It became necessary to construct new school premises in Gladstone Road because of the rapid expansion of population in the local area.

At the same time the Elementary Education Act of 1870 had increased the number of children eligible for school places when it introduced compulsory elementary education.

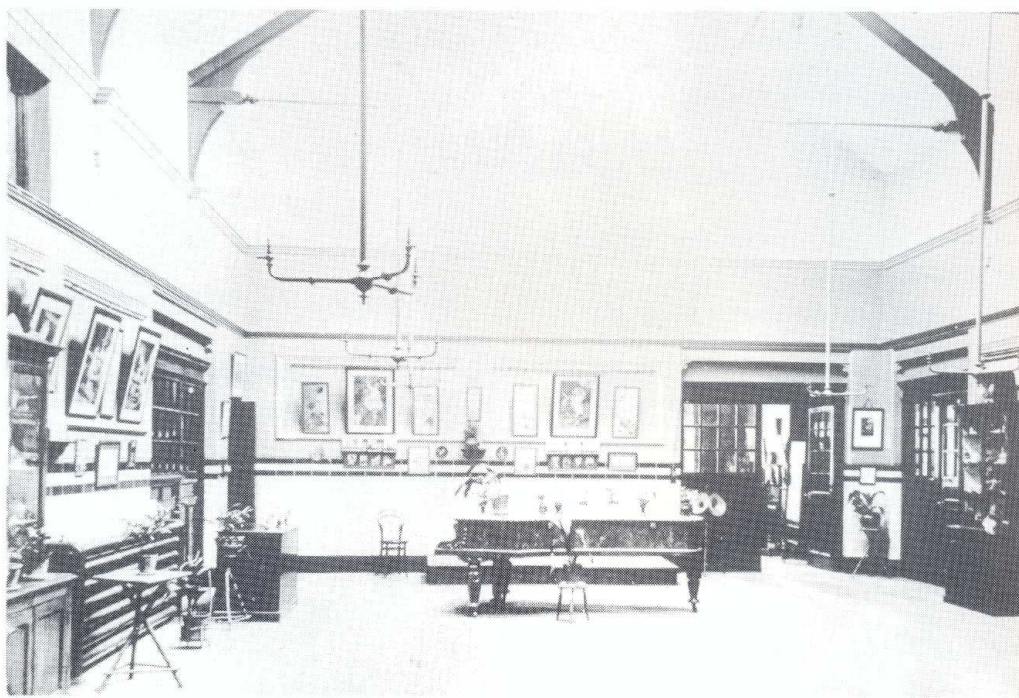
So, six years before the school was opened in June 1890, the site was secured, plans drawn up by the architects Hall and Tugwell, and the decision taken to construct the buildings, where possible of local materials (such as red exterior bricks) and with a view to durability!

The design of the building was revolutionary at the time. The Scarborough Gazette described it as producing "the most satisfactory impression desirable. The rooms are large, lofty, light and airy...." These rooms were designed to accommodate from forty to seventyfive pupils each - somewhat excessive by present day standards!

Nevertheless, they provided facilities for cooking, science, drawing and needlework, besides reading, writing and arithmetic.

At the opening ceremony, the Rt. Hon. A.J. Mundella M.P. said that twenty years before "there was no such school in England, no such exhibition of work in any school. If in the future he had to point to a good school he should point to the school he had the honour of opening at Scarborough on the 7th June".

Just as the fabric of the building has withstood the rigours of time, as envisaged by its planners one hundred years ago, so the school continues to provide a progressive and stimulating environment for this present generation of children.



Gladstone Road Infant School Hall
Circa 1900

SCARBOROUGH'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE YEAR 1890

By Marie Belfitt

When Gladstone Road Board School was officially opened on 7th June 1890 Scarborough had ELEVEN schools providing "public elementary education". They are described below - but only two of them are still in existence.

AMICABLE SOCIETY SCHOOL The society - and the school - were founded in 1729 by Robert North, for the purpose of "clothing and educating, in the principles of the Church of England, children of poor parents". A room in Trinity House, St. Sepulchre Street, was used as a school for 20 boys - a few years later 10 girls joined them.

In 1817, at a cost of £1,200, schoolrooms were built on North Terrace, Castle Road (between Queen Street and Aurborough Street) - the site was donated by Scarborough Corporation. The school's curriculum was "reading, writing and arithmetic" plus knitting and sewing for girls, navigation and church music for boys.

Those schoolrooms were demolished in 1863. They were replaced by larger ones to accommodate 200 children, plus residences for the Master and Mistress. Costing £2,000 the buildings were designed by William Baldwin, architect of many Scarborough "landmarks", including the Pavilion Hotel and Westborough Methodist Church.

Like all voluntary schools, the Amicable School had to comply with most Education Acts, passed from 1870 onwards. In 1890 the school had 100 children on its register - all regular attenders.

The Amicable School closed in 1893, and its buildings were converted into houses. After 1893, the Amicable Society "provided clothing for needy children" - it is still doing so in 1990!

LANCASTERIAN BOARD SCHOOL It was founded by voluntary subscriptions in 1810 to utilise an education method designed by a Quaker named Joseph Lancaster (1778-1836), which advocated "learning by rote" and the use of monitors" to assist teachers. Religious instruction was nondenominational and the Catechism was not taught, so Lancasterian Schools were popular with Nonconformist parents.

Scarborough's Lancasterian School - for 400 boys and girls - was originally in a single-room building on Rutland Terrace, Castle Road. Administered by a Management Committee, its weekly fee was based on parental income.

In 1862 a new school - for 700 children - was designed by William Baldwin Stewart and built on Low Tollergate (St. Mary's Walk). At that time the school's fee was four pence a week but it was reduced to two pence for children who had a "letter of recommendation" to prove low parental income.

Responsibility for the school was transferred to Scarborough's School Board in 1874 - hence the change of name to Lancasterian Board School. In 1890 the school had 649 children on its register - average attendance was 410. It closed in 1896 and its buildings were converted into houses.

ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL Founded in 1836 by the Church of England's National School movement, it originally catered for 100 girls in a rented room on Lime Kiln Hill (near Marlborough Street). A schoolroom for 170 boys was built the next year - on a site donated by Scarborough Corporation - at the north-west corner of Queen Street. The school took its name from Scarborough's Parish Church, whose vicar was chairman of the school's Management Committee.

National Schools used the "Madras" System devised by Andrew Bell (1753-1832). Like Joseph Lancaster's system, it was centred around "learning by rote" and the use of "monitors".

Both the original schoolrooms were replaced in 1859 by a new St. Mary's National School, erected - on a site donated by Scarborough Corporation - at the corner of Castle Road and Queen Street. That school had three departments - Boys', Girls' and Infants'. Its building cost of £2,624 was raised from public subscriptions and a £1,418 Government grant.

In **1890** the school had 600 children on its register - average attendance was 480. It closed on 22nd December 1938. The buildings are now demolished - the site is a car park.

St. THOMAS'S NATIONAL SCHOOL Originating from 1858, it was a "church school" founded to "educate poor children who lived in St. Thomas's Parish". The first schoolroom was on Tuthill, adjacent to St. Thomas's Church, and had to be greatly enlarged during 1874. In 1890 the school had 312 children on its register - average attendance was 195. The school was transferred to Longwestgate in 1896 - see also Longwestgate Board School.

Scarborough's Graham Sea Training School (at Paradise Estate from 1918 to 1974) began at the Tuthill schoolroom in 1915. This building, owned by Scarborough Corporation, is now used as a store.

ALL SAINTS' NATIONAL SCHOOL Originating from 1873, it was a "church school" situated adjacent to the south side of All Saints' Church, Falsgrave (opened in 1868). Those first schoolrooms were destroyed by fire on 27th December 1879.

Much larger schoolrooms - for 400 children - replaced them, being opened on 17th December 1880. In 1890 the school had 400 children on its register - average attendance was 390.

All Saints' National School closed in 1920. The buildings were reopened the same year as a private school. Along with All Saints' Church, the schoolrooms were demolished in 1975 - Glayton Court (flats and shops) were erected on the site.

ST. MARTIN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL It was a "church school" situated on the ground floor of St. Martin's Grammar School, Ramshill Road (building is now the White Rose Restaurant). Like the Grammar School, it was opened in 1872 to educate - for substantial fees - children from middle-class families.

Divided into two departments - Girls and Mixed Infants - it could accommodate 160 children. In **1890** the school had only 80 pupils on its register - so perhaps its fees were exorbitant!

St. Martin's National School was transferred to new buildings on Royal Avenue in December 1898. The Grammar School remained on Ramshill Road until April 1920 when it was incorporated with the Municipal School, Westwood, to form the Scarborough Boys' High School.

St. Martin's (Church of England) School is still in existence - it has been at Wheatcroft since September 1979.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL It was a Roman Catholic "church school" situated at the north east end of Auborough Street. Opened in 1858, it occupied the "old Roman Catholic chapel", which was made redundant when St. Peter's Church, Castle Road, opened in July 1858. Evidently the former chapel was divided to make a Mixed Schoolroom and Infants' Schoolroom. In 1890 the school had 150 children on its register - average attendance was 120.

St. Peter's School is still in existence on its original site - but it should have new buildings at Northstead by the mid 1990s.

WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL It was built in 1858 - at a cost of £1,700 - on the north side of Friars Entry (now Friars Way) to accommodate 250 children. Administered by a committee, the school had three departments - Boys', Girls' and Infants' - and aimed to "provide a sound moral and religious education for poor children of all denominations".

The school closed in December 1890. Two years later the Management Committee of Scarborough Hospital (then on Elders Street) bought the land and buildings. The latter were replaced by a purpose built "Scarborough Hospital" - opened on 6th July 1893. That building is now demolished - the site is a car park.

BOARD SCHOOLS By 1890 Scarborough had three non-denominational Board Schools, administered by Scarborough's School Board (formed on 3rd February 1871). They charged low fees but received Government grants and financial support from local Rates.

Fees at Scarborough's Board Schools were "two pence a week, payable in advance". Most children were wholly or partly exempt from payment of fees because of their parents' low income. In 1891 those fees were abolished.

FALSgrave BOARD SCHOOL Situated at the corner of Falsgrave Road and Sitwell Street, it opened on 17th March 1873 as a Mixed Infants School for 128 children. A Girls' Department, with 180 places, was opened in 1875 and a Boys' Department, with 206 places, was opened in 1884.

In 1890 Falsgrave Board School had 554 children on its register - average attendance was 489. Known as "Falsgrave County Modern Girls' School" during its latter years, the school closed on 15th May 1964. The buildings are now (1990) used by a firm of clothing manufacturers.

CENTRAL BOARD SCHOOL Situated at the corner of Trafalgar Street West and Melrose Street, it was opened on 27th October 1873 to accommodate 1,443 children. It had four departments - Boys, Girls, Mixed Juniors and Infants. In 1890 the school had 1,672 children on its register - average attendance was 1,375.

During the school's latter years its buildings housed Central County Modern Girls' School and Central Primary School. The former closed on 15th May 1964, the latter closed the following year. After the buildings were demolished in 1970, Genevieve Court (opened in 1983) was built on the site.

LONGWESTGATE BOARD SCHOOL Opened as a Mixed and Infants' School on 5th January 1874, it was situated on Longwestgate in the "White House", a Georgian residence, owned until 1871 by the Tindall family, local shipbuilders/shipowners. An extension to the house's east side enabled the school to accommodate 537 children.

In 1890 the school had 517 children on its register - average attendance was 387. It was closed in 1896 and its pupils - along with those of the Lancasterian Board School - were transferred to Friarage Board School, (opened on 27th February 1896).

The Longwestgate buildings were bought by the Church of England and renovated. St. Thomas's National School moved into them on 27th October 1896. That school closed on 29th August 1939 but its buildings were used for educational purposes until 1989 when they were sold by North Yorkshire County Council.



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A LITTLE REMINISCENCE

By Doris Phillpot (nee Bentley)

The outstanding episode I remember is when we were all assembled in the Hall. The headmistress, Miss Carr, was on the platform with a little girl of about 6 years. Miss Carr gave us all a long lecture on honesty, as the little girl had taken 2d bank money from a younger girl. She made us recite after her "It is a sin to steal a pin, and how much more a greater thing."

I was born on 15th May 1894.

EARLY DAYS

By Mrs. Gertrude Morley (Age 93)

The classrooms were much less attractive in those days, as they were painted in a dark chocolate brown. Each room held sixty children who sat in long rows, the desks and the seats were screwed to the floor and we had to sit with our arms folded behind us. We wrote on slates with slate pencils which squeaked and if we were careless when we did our "pot hooks" we were hit on the hand with a ruler.

I was always afraid of the teachers, who wore long black skirts which seemed to sweep the floor as they moved. They also wore high neck blouses and small aprons often in black satin. I remember that I wore a navy blue pleated skirt and a knitted jersey and a white pinafore with a frill round the armhole and the bottom edge. We all had to have a handkerchief pinned to the front of our pinafores.

AN EARLY START

Mrs. J.A. Welburn

My mother, Mrs. Agnes Annie Hedley (nee Hall) started school at the age of three and a half (she was born 12.05.01) by virtue of the fact that she walked there with two 'big girls'. As they did not know what to do with her they put her in the babies' class. When she got home her mother asked where she thought she had been! When told she said "Right, you can go back", and after dinner took her to be registered. The two girls were Jenny Fletcher and Phyllis Woodall (later Walker). The head of the 'babies' was Miss Brown, who was there a very long time. At five and a half when most children were starting school mother moved up into the 'big girls' - now Juniors.

Standards were high - mother still has a plaque of flowers she made in Miss Wilson's class when she was seven. I thought she had done it at Training College when she was eighteen.



Infant School Staff 1906

MY MOTHER'S EARLY MEMORIES OF SCHOOL

By Mrs. Lorna Piggott

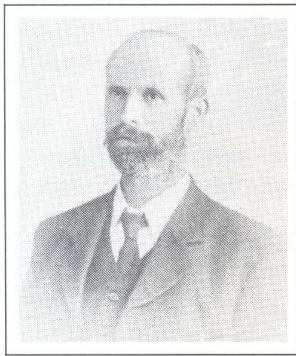
Unfortunately Mum hasn't much information about the building of the school but there was a very bad out-break of diphtheria. My Aunt Ethel was the 17th child in her class to catch it and soon afterwards the school was closed. There was a lot of strong feeling in the town. Some said the school had been built in an unhealthy position and that the drains were faulty.

My mother's grandfather, William Coverdale Malton, owned the brickyard on Scalby Road and my mother wonders if some of the bricks were used to build the school. That would explain why her father knew it was well built and not on swampy, unhealthy land, as was the rumour.

'EARLY READERS'

By Mr. Tom Dawson

I started the Infant School in 1908 where I learned to read and write under Miss Pollard. I can still remember the first reading book and the lines "Tom and Dick ran a race. Tom's face was red but Dick's face was pale."



Mr. Drummond

A BRUSH WITH MR. DRUMMOND

By Mr. Tom Dawson

The first headmaster that I can remember was Mr. Drummond. He was a stern, bearded man of whom we were all rather scared. I remember that on one occasion he came into the classroom and tested our arithmetic. The lad next to me asked for the answer and I was caught whispering it to him. I was promptly ordered out into the corridor to wait there. As lads went by they grinned at me for they guessed what was to come. I didn't think it was a 'grinning' matter. In due course Mr. Drummond emerged from the classroom, cane in hand, and I received a stinging stroke across each hand and returned to the classroom crestfallen and red in the face.

DOMESTIC MATTERS

Mr. Newlove who attended Gladstone Road from 1905 to 1914 remembers:

"The headmaster, Mr. Drummond, checking all shoes every morning."

"Miss Robinson, one of his teachers, always chewing liquorice comforts."

"The free dinner children spending their one and a half hour dinner break, unsupervised, at the Welburn Cafe which was next to the Victoria Hotel."

WET PLAYTIMES

Ella Tindall who started the Infant School in the Spring of 1907 remembers spending wet playtimes marching around the hall singing this song:

"Step out bravely, always looking forward,
Let your footsteps be brave and strong,
Mark your time and keep an equal distance,
Singing as we go our little marching song."

In 1990 the 'dinner ladies' held a Valentine's Day Sale and raised £170 to be spent on the purchase of boardgames for the use of the children during wet dinnertimes.

Times change!

GLADSTONE ROAD SCHOOL LOG BOOKS (1890-1923)

Extracts selected by Miss I.J. Redpath (Teacher)

The school log-books give a fascinating insight into the life of a school, and very often into the home lives of its pupils. I was intrigued to read of the many different reasons given for lack of attendance to classes. Sadly, in the majority of cases it was due to illness.

- 23.10.1900** Two more cases of "Scarlet Fever" and one of "Typhoid" have been reported today.
- 10.09.1901** Mabel S. has been removed from register owing to death from Diphtheria.
- 29.05.1911** One of Standard IIIa scholars Gwendoline M. died in the sanatorium of Diphtheria. She was at school on Wednesday last and died early morning.
- 04.07.1911** Emily C. - a standard IV scholar died. She has been away from school some months now and has died from consumption.
- Sept. 1911** Four families excluded from school this past fortnight owing to Scarlet Fever in the house.
- 12.01.1914** It is with regret that I record the death of Laura A. (Standard III). She died yesterday of Tonsillitis. She suffered from enlarged tonsils and was very deaf, and rather delicate, though very regular in attendance.
- 16.03.1915** Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported and the general attendance in school is poor.
- 29.04.1915** The Infants' Department closed until after Whitsuntide - owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria.
- 07.05.1915** Four deaths have occurred in the Infants' Department, and there are about a dozen cases of Diphtheria there.
- 09.06.1915** Attended little Maudie W's funeral - she died of Diphtheria.

Other entries recorded celebrations and occasional holidays.

- 06.01.1899** Poor attendance this morning owing to New Year Festivities.
- 21.05.1900** Holiday all day in honour of the relief of "Mafeking".
- 05.02.1901** The school will be closed all day this 5th of January in honour of the Proclamation of the King in the Borough of Scarborough.
- 02.06.1902** Half holiday, thro' the kindness of the Vice Chairman (Mr. Stephenson) in honour of the Peace Proclamation issued from South Africa.
- 21.06.1911** Closed school till Tuesday June 27th in honour of the coronation celebrations. Children in Standards I and II will assemble at school at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow morning to receive beakers and boxes of sweets.
- 26.04.1923** Whole Day's Holiday granted at the King's request in honour of the marriage of his second son, the Duke of York, to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

Some other interesting extracts which give an insight into life at Gladstone Road are:

- 16.11.1900** Examined Standard II this week. The girls are far too sleepy and are not very intelligent, Miss B. is doing good work and will rouse them.
- 21.01.1911** I record with regret the death of the Head Mistress, Miss Ada Carr who died today in London. Funeral at York 25.1.1911.

- 1913 Miss Gertrude Horsley becomes headteacher.
- 17.04.1912 Allowed all the children to go into the school yard at 11.25 to watch the sun's eclipse. Got very good views from time to time - cloudy - many of the children brought coloured or smoked glasses.
- 23.04.1912 £2.12.6½ collected on behalf of Mayor's Fund for survivors and relatives of those ship-wrecked on the Titanic.
- 22.05.1916 The Daylight Saving Bill.
- 28.11.1916 Two Zeppelins passed over the town. Our guns fired at them - no damage done - many of the children were up most of the night and most children next day were very tired.



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A NEW CENTURY DAWNS

Mr. N.S. Bogie (Former Pupil and Teacher)

Boys and girls who entered the Infant School at the turn of the century did so at a time when Great Britain was one of the leading powers in the world. Its Empire was at its height, its Navy second to none and its merchant fleet enormous.

Queen Victoria's long and successful reign was drawing to its close and the nation had high hopes of increased progress and prosperity in the new century which was just beginning. In Scarborough the recently built Council Schools, such as Gladstone Road, were full of eager children who were justifiably proud of being part of a great nation. The new Municipal (Higher Grade) School, recently completed at its site in the Valley and staffed by highly qualified graduates was looked upon as a gateway of opportunity by bright youngsters who were able to win places there in the annual competitive examinations. Many children from Gladstone Road succeeded in these and looked forward to four years of hard study with the chance of further competitive examinations leading to higher education and university.

In addition to the normal lessons, this school offered a wide range of activities through the many societies and clubs which flourished after school....the Historical Society, the Literary and Debating Society, Le Club Francais etc. and of course there were many sporting and outdoor activities. There was indeed every reason to suppose that any boy or girl lucky enough to be educated there would find their horizons extended and that they would be able to look forward to a happy and successful future.

If we trace the career of one boy, in many ways typical of his generation, it may help us to understand a little of the situation.

Horace Pugmire was the eldest child of Mr. H. Pugmire, a joiner, of 19 Gladstone Street. He was admitted to the Gladstone Road Infants Department in January 1902 and while little is known of his time at Gladstone Road, he must have worked hard, for he won a place at the Municipal School in the examinations of June 1908.

He seems to have made the most of his opportunity there, and his name appears many times in the school magazines between 1908 and 1914, taking parts in French plays and entertainments produced by the Club Francais, in the School Sports, and later serving on the committees of the Literary and Debating Society, the Club Francais and the Historical Society. In 1913 he and another boy, also from Gladstone Road, gave an illustrated lecture on the history of Scarborough Castle to the members of the Historical Society. In the summer of 1914 he was awarded a County Major Scholarship to Leeds University to study for a B. Sc. degree and in the autumn of that year, while other slightly older ex-Gladstone Road boys were going to France with the British Army, he went to study at Leeds.

Coming home that Christmas he would have heard stories of the bombardment, and possibly have known some of those who were killed - a sad homecoming! He returned to University and successfully completed the first part of his degree course. In the Autumn of 1915 the 21st Battalion (Yeoman Rifles) Kings Royal Rifle Corps was being raised by Lt. Col. The Earl of Feversham of Duncombe Park, Helmsley and considerable pressure was being exerted on all young men of eligible age to join the colours. Horace Pugmire enlisted in that regiment and went with it to France in May 1916, serving in the ranks as Rifleman. The German armies were threatening Paris and the 21st was heavily involved on September 15th in the great counter attack by the allied armies in the area north of the River Somme.

It was in this battle that tanks were used for the first time, and advances were made in spite of heavy shelling from enemy guns. Among the many casualties, Lt. Col. The Earl of Feversham, aged 37, was killed while leading his men into action. After more heavy shelling and severe casualties the Battalion was retrieved and withdrawn to a rest area. However, without further reinforcements, they were moved into the front line on October 2nd preparing to attack on October 4th, but because of very wet weather this attack was postponed until October 7th. Very heavy shelling caused this attack to fail completely and the intense shelling continued until October 10th when the Battalion was withdrawn, having suffered 75% casualties.

Horace Pugmire is listed as having been killed in action on October 10th 1916. He was not quite 20 years old. Like so many others, he has no known grave.

There can surely never have been a period in our history when, in such a few short years, the high hopes of some of Europe's finest young people were so cruelly cut short. 71 young men and 2 young women, who had attended Gladstone Road School, lost their lives in the 1914-18 war.

(Compiled by information kindly made available by the Scarborough Room of the Public Library and the Royal Green Jackets' Museum, Winchester.)

GEORGE V's CORONATION

By Mrs. Blanche Wright (nee Malton)

On the occasion of George V's Coronation, all the school went to the Valley Gardens - on the slope at the Ramshill Road side. We sang patriotic songs. The girls had been told to ask their mothers if they could wear panama hats with red, white and blue ribbon round. I had to wear my sister Myra's hat and it kept slipping over my eyes, but it didn't spoil the pleasure of receiving a bag of sweets and a Coronation Mug.

THE SHELLING OF THE SCHOOL

Extract from the School Log Book
Wednesday 16th December 1914

German Raid on Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool. Fortunately it occurred before school assembled. It commenced at 8 and lasted about 40 minutes and it was estimated that about 500 shells were fired. Great damage was done to the town, seventeen people were killed and many injured. The School Hall was badly damaged - a five inch cap of a shell was found inside. The hall clock stopped at 8.25 and one cannot feel too thankful that the children had not assembled for had it been a little later the whole school would have been assembled in the hall for prayers. A classroom adjoining the Hall (No. 4) was badly damaged. Two country children were in the Hall when the bombardment commenced but Mr. Crawford - the Caretaker - took them down into the cellar and they were safe. I came to school immediately the firing ceased and was relieved to find no one had suffered bodily injury. No school until the New Year. We were due to close on the Friday December 18th but it would have been impossible to resume work under the circumstances.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Bryan Berryman
(Scarborough Reference and Local History Librarian)

When it happened, Lily Bain was in the back room of her home at 51 St. John's Road, lacing up her winter boots ready for another day at school. Lily was fourteen; soon she would leave books and homework to find a job - but not just yet.

Around the corner at 2 Wykeham Street, nine year old Jack Ward was in the gas-lit kitchen of his grandparents' house. It faced across the Whitby railway line to Gladstone Road School where one or two children from out of town had arrived early. On a grey morning in 1914 their thoughts were of Christmas and the holidays - only three more days to go!

At the Westlands School in Westbourne Grove, at Queen Margaret's School in Filey Road, and at other Scarborough boarding schools dormitories emptied as breakfast bells rang. Shopkeepers took down shutters as postmen and milkmen went from house to house; cream-and-maroon trams from the depot behind Hampton Road (now Harley Close) clanked through the streets and travellers heading to the railway station for trains to York, Hull, Whitby or Pickering, looked at the clock tower to check their watches. It was eight o'clock on Wednesday 16th December and daylight was just breaking.

In St. Martin's Church, a small congregation gathered for Holy Communion, and near the Spa a few early-morning bathers swam in the cold waters of the North Sea unaware of three enemy warships which in the darkness had steamed into the bay from Hayburn Wyke with their guns trained on the castle and the town.

Without warning, the storm broke - not thunder and lightning, as many thought at first, but a barrage of cannon fire and a rain of exploding shells. As homes and shops, hotels, churches and schools were hit, bricks, glass, chimney-pots, slates, timber and shrapnel (bomb fragments) flew in all directions - along the South Cliff, St. Nicholas Cliff, the Foreshore and Castle Hill - and for about half an hour the attack continued.

A mile away at Gladstone Road School, a huge shell burst through the roof of the main hall causing great damage and stopping the clock at 8.25. No. 4 classroom was also badly hit. Down in the cellar, two frightened children sheltered safely with Mr. Crawford, the caretaker. Half an hour later, the hall would have been full for morning assembly, but there could be no school that day and the Christmas holidays started there and then.

Lily Bain, with her mother and young brother, had an amazing escape. A shell wrecked the room they were in, shattering furniture and piercing her satchel packed with books, but the family were not hurt at all. The house still shows a plaque to remind us of this war-time raid. Most Falsgrave houses are old enough to have stood through the attack, some badly damaged, others hardly touched. There was a radio station near Spring Hill Lane which the enemy were trying to hit, and shells thudded into Falsgrave Park and the fields where Sandybed, Stepney Road, Whin Bank and Box Hill now stand.

The Bennetts' house in Wykeham Street was destroyed by a direct hit, and Jack Ward died with his grandmother, his Uncle Albert and a baby. Christopher Bennett fell from a bedroom to the ground floor but survived, as did his father. Elsewhere in the town fourteen other lives were lost and many people were hurt.

At last, soon after 8.30 a.m., the noise of the guns stopped. For many, the one thought now was to get away from the town quickly in case the enemy were about to invade. Like refugees, crowds hurried along the country roads towards Scalby, Seamer and Ayton, some wearing coats over their nightclothes. Others rushed to the railway station and crowded on to departing trains. Some grabbed treasured possessions, others left everything behind. One lady carried a gun, another clutched a Christmas pudding, and a man in a top hat was seen carrying a parrot. Pupils from Queen Margaret's and The Westlands marched in orderly file to Seamer Station and went to their homes by train.

Those who stayed soon realised that the immediate danger was over and started at once to clear up the devastation. The Mayor's message to the town was, "Keep calm and help others to do the same", good advice in any situation. St. John Ambulance volunteers and soldiers worked non-stop carrying injured people to the Hospital on Friars Way and the war-time Military Hospital under Westborough Methodist Chapel.

Many shops re-opened - some had remained open during the raid. Soon souvenir hunters were on the streets collecting pieces of shell. The morning had seen hundreds leaving the town in fear - by afternoon sightseers were arriving on seaside day-trips to see the damage. Photographers were busy and within days picture books, postcards and medals were on sale. The columns of the Scarborough Evening News and Mercury contained long detailed reports and the Scarborough Pictorial (one penny, every Wednesday) printed many dramatic photographs.

Lily Bain's picture was in the paper, together with the story of her experience. I cannot tell you any more about her but like hundreds of Scarborough schoolchildren she would never forget Christmas 1914. The pantomime at the Opera House and the Fishermen v Firemen football match on the sands probably seemed better than ever that year, and although the Grand Picture House had been destroyed, there were films at the Palladium and the Londesborough.

After the holiday, school started on time, although Mr. Sinclair the builder and the plumber, Mr. Bland had not finished all the repairs. It was arranged that if there were another attack, the infants would take shelter in the cellars of the Farmers and Cleveland Dairy in Norwood Street, and the older boys and girls would go to the basement of Rowntree's Furniture Warehouse in Wooler Street. All Saints' School in Falsgrave was to use the Dark Arch under the railway! They never needed to, but probably they would have practice drills from time to time.

On the seafront, there were now barricades of sandbags and barbed wire but on a bright and sunny Pancake Tuesday crowds skipped happily on the Foreshore, just as we still do every year. Ten days later, a huge fire in Queen Street destroyed Boyes' Store and the Methodist Chapel which had escaped damage by shells.

As the war went on, girls at school knitted socks and gloves for the soldiers and sewed sandbags for defences. Each year on 24th May, Empire Day was celebrated with flag displays and patriotic songs, and in morning assembly there were prayers for victory and peace.

There was one more attack on Scarborough. It happened on a fine sunny evening, Tuesday 4th September 1917, when a submarine fired on the South Bay, killing three people.

Peace came on 11th November 1918 when all schools had a half-day holiday. In July 1919, there were Peace Celebrations with sports and an extra week's summer holiday to mark the end of a long war which for many had started suddenly and violently with The Bombardment of Scarborough.

A PUPIL'S PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

By Mr. H. Kendall

I was a pupil at Gladstone Road School in 1914. We lived in North Street. I remember the Bombardment. I was getting ready to go to school when the shelling began. At first my mother and I could not understand what was happening. I was looking out of the window in the kitchen and I saw a big flash and then a bang - it seemed to be over the top of the Balmoral Hotel. My mother and I got under the kitchen table until the Bombardment was over. It was a good thing that the shelling started at eight o'clock as my classroom got hit by a shell and was demolished. I am not sure but I think a plaque was put on the wall stating that the classroom had been hit by a shell.

During the Bombardment my father came across a man he knew lying in the road. He had been killed. I can verify the fact that quite a lot of people were making their way up Westborough with bags and suitcases hoping to get to York away from the coast.

SHUT IN FOR OUR OWN SAFETY

By Mrs. Blanche Wright

I remember being marched with all the rest of the school to Rowntree's Warehouse in Wooler Street and being shut in, for our own safety (!) in the event of another bombardment.



The Senior playground after The Bombardment.



Gladstone Road Junior School Hall. A Terrible "if"

LOOK NORTH

By Michael Gorbert, M.A.

(Vice-Chairman, Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society)

When Gladstone Road's first pupils walked from their homes to the North Side, what would they find? Beyond the housing developments which thrust with a pincer-like movement from Falsgrave and from the top end of Castle Road, they would cross open spaces near the new cemetery. There was no Peasholm Park for their enjoyment. Instead, through an undeveloped Peasholm Gap, they would come to the North Sands to find no promenade or Waffle Shop, but a few bathing machines and horse-riding on the sands. The almost completed Royal Albert Drive stretched away to their right towards the 1000-foot long pier where paddle steamers called, and where visitors promenaded. Above the pier were cliff gardens and a bandstand. Keen eyes would have seen men busy dismantling the short-lived cliff tramway that took visitors from Queen's Parade to the pier, whilst appearing round the headland were small pleasure boats taking holidaymakers for an afternoon sail to the tea gardens at Scalby Mills - a popular excursion of the times.

Scenic and popular as the North Side was, it existed largely isolated from the rest of Scarborough. Should it be connected by a road round the foot of Castle Hill or by a tunnel through the hill? In 1890 the Royal Albert Drive opened initially as a highway to nowhere. Much building would be needed before the South Foreshore Road could be connected via a re-modelled Sandside to the long-heralded Marine Drive. Whilst engineers battled with tides and storms, high above them the Warwick Revolving Tower offered a seagull's eye view of the whole resort, including the pier, where takings had dwindled sadly. The great storm of January 1905, reduced the pier to a tangled mass of girders that was beyond repair, three years before the Marine Drive (which if it had been built twenty years earlier, might have been the economic saviour of the tramway and the pier) was opened. North and South had met, and Gladstone Road celebrated with a half-holiday!

Since then, generations of children have streamed from the school gates down to the North Side. In all these hundred years families whose children have attended Gladstone Road Schools have played no small part in building a brighter resort - a resort that belongs to them more positively than it does the visitors. Changes have been many and far-reaching, yet it is heartening to reflect that for children today, as for their predecessors at the School a hundred years ago, there is still the thrill of finding a starfish when the tide goes out in the North Bay, and the crowning glory as the last turret is built into the sand castle. These are not the moments to brood on a changing world. This is now; this is the present to enjoy. What if tonight's tide will wash away the castle so painstakingly built! Tomorrow fresh castles will arise, and in its second century Gladstone Road will make its contribution to Scarborough life.

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