

GLADSTONE ROAD SCHOOL 1949 - 1953

By John Newham (ex pupil)

I started at Gladstone Road School in 1949 where discipline was strict but teaching in most subjects well in advance of what was considered acceptable for the period.

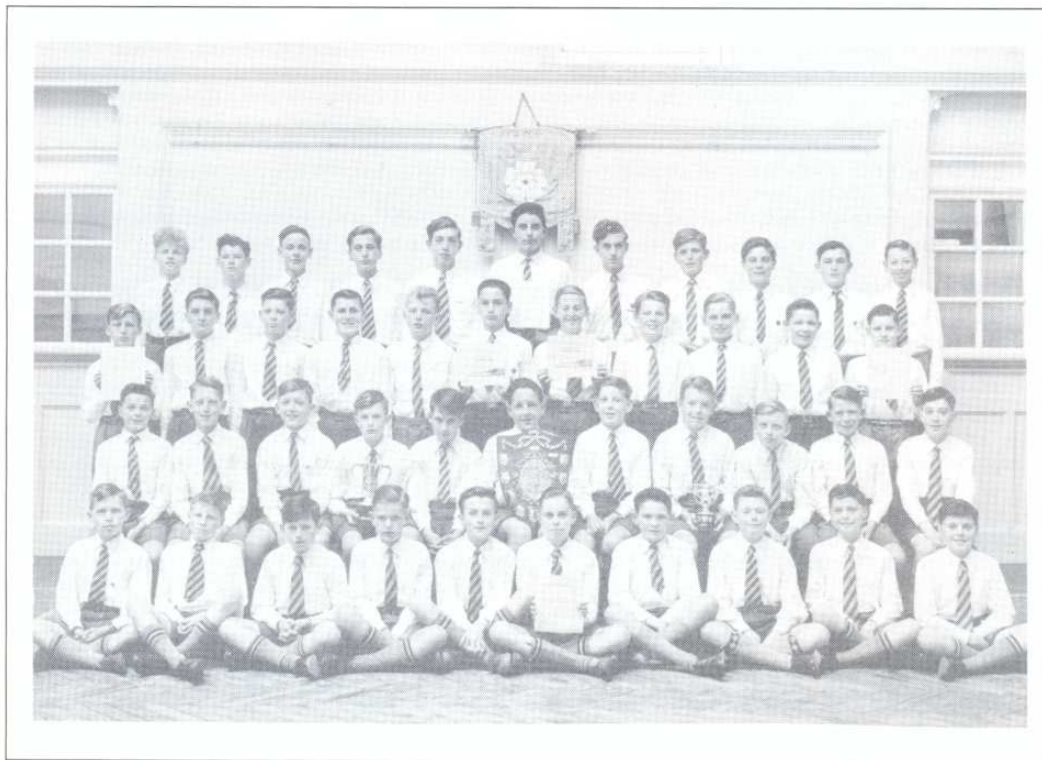
During that period the school motto was 'wisdom and courage' and the badge was designed by a very caring teacher named Frank Spinks. He had known my family since 1921.

It was Mr. Spinks who started what was to become one of the best known choirs in the area - the Gladstone Road Boys' Choir.

The choir sang at Christmas time at the Odeon Picture House where the boys watched the Newsreel which at that time was mostly about the fighting in Korea. Later the boys went on to sing at the Eskdale Tournament of Song in Whitby where each year the choir received honours under the baton of Mr. Spinks.

I think we must have sung at every church hall in Scarborough where we usually enjoyed a smashing buffet supper. On one occasion we sang for a group of nurses from the hospital then went on to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spinks who provided a superb Christmas buffet.

Most of the boys have done well in their chosen careers and like me owe much of their success to the past teachers of Gladstone Road.



School Choir 1956.

EARLY MATHEMATICS AT GLADSTONE ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

By Professor F.G. Leppington

Head of Mathematics Department, Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine, London.

The title for this article sounds formidable. It is sadly the case that mention of the subject - whether early mathematics, or otherwise - does not always provoke an enthusiastic response.

Some people have been put off mathematics, with any interest or self-confidence beaten out of them at an early age, and think of it as something to be appreciated by only a few rare individuals, this is wrong. We all need some mathematical expertise, and most people have it to some degree. Using mathematics can and should be enjoyable.

Those of my generation got a good start at Gladstone Road School, which I remember with great affection. I have a clear recollection of each teacher of my Junior School years, 1946-1950: Miss Fearnside, Miss Fawcett, and finally Miss Binns for the last two years. These spellings and titles might be inaccurate (everybody was known as "Miss", regardless of actual marital status), but there is no doubt about their impact.

Miss Binns was a formidable and marvellous teacher. She always had an appropriate adage to cover any circumstance - to encourage, to comfort, or to admonish. For example, an instruction to start work early instead of wasting time became "a day well begun is a day half done" from Miss Binns' directory of apt phrases. All pupils were left in no doubt about her high expectations from us all. I suppose her teaching methods, which seemed to emphasise the basic skills, might have been overtaken by more recent ideas on broader learning experiences. We were certainly given plenty of practice at the basic rules of arithmetic. It is impossible to know whether this produced a love of mathematics, or not, for the majority of pupils. In my case it was an excellent start.

In those days we knew the "times table" by heart, by the time we reached junior school age. (Whether we appreciated what it meant is debatable, as it was more of a ritual chant than a solid piece of learning.) Miss Binns succeeded in making pupils (or at least some of them, to my certain knowledge) aware of the power and structure of the subject. Fractions and decimals are not at all easy to grasp, and arithmetic was all the more difficult because of the tiresome multi-base system of pounds, shillings and pence, and of ounces, pounds, stones and tons.

The intricacies of fractions were resolved by a variety of approaches - which I expect are still used today - describing shares (fractions) of cakes, packets of sweets, marbles and cutting bits of paper.

In addition, we had lots of practice. A great deal of practice. There might well be much less of this repetitive work in today's schools. The new way is probably better for the vast majority of pupils who need broader stimuli to maintain interest, confidence and concentration.

But Miss Binns, and all at Gladstone Road School, will always be remembered by me, for starting an interest in mathematics that has survived to this day.

A GOOD START

Gladstone Road still provides a 'good start' for those intending to strive for academic excellence. In Autumn 1989 one of our ex pupils, Karen Frankish, entered Downing College, Cambridge to read Modern Languages.



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GLADSTONE ROAD SENIOR BOYS' SCHOOL (1928 - 1959)

By Mr. L. Rollett (Former Headmaster)

In 1928 a re-organisation of schools took place, separating the senior pupils (11+) from the Juniors. This meant of course a re-organisation of staffs and teachers were given the opportunity of applying for posts under the new scheme.

Having lived in the Falsgrave area for many years, I applied for and was offered a post at Gladstone Road Senior Boys' School under Mr. W. Halliwell.

The senior boys were to occupy the western side of the main Gladstone Road building, the Eastern half being used by the Junior School.

For a school roll of between 300 and 350, there were eight classrooms plus a science laboratory and a woodwork room, the School Hall having to be shared by Juniors and Seniors for Assemblies, Music, Drama and Physical Education.

With such accommodation it was inevitable that classes had to be large - round about the 40 mark.

Northstead playing field was our venue for games, and at that time, transport not having been considered we marched military style along Manor Road to the cinder path bordering the Cemetery and then ran the remaining distance. Although the actual playing time was short, it was always enjoyable. On Saturday mornings we played House or School matches.

A certain amount of specialisation was inevitable for Woodwork, Science and Physical Education and for some time we had the benefit of a part-time commercial subjects teacher.

Some time later we acquired the use of another Woodwork centre at Nelson Street, then Metalwork was added to the curriculum when classes for this subject were arranged for us at St. Thomas' School (near the Castle). Another interesting addition was a course on Gardening and we were allowed a part of Northstead playing field for the practical side of this subject.

Mr. J.H. Milbourn took over as Headmaster when Mr. Halliwell retired in 1935 and as can be inferred from the date, for some years there were added difficulties. With the introduction of school meals, the Hall had to be prepared as a dining room for both Junior and Senior pupils, and as the war years rolled on pupils from schools in Hartlepool and Hull had to be offered a share of our already limited accommodation.

After the war, when Mr. Milbourn retired, Mr. J.W.R. Stone took over as Headmaster and I became Deputy Head. It was at this time that we began our visits abroad, the first being to Paris.

When Mr. Stone left Gladstone Road to take up a post in Shifnal, I was left in charge as Acting Headmaster and was then appointed Headmaster in August 1956.

For some time we had been promised better accommodation (new school?) and in 1959 when the Boys' High School moved to new premises, it was arranged that I should take the Gladstone Road and Friarage boys together to form the Westwood County Modern School on the vacated Boys' High School premises.

It was not an easy task to link together the staffs and pupils of the two schools (over 600 pupils) but it was a new beginning with much better facilities.

Thus Gladstone Road Senior Boys' School ceased to exist after 31 years in the Gladstone Road building, but our departure was to the advantage of the Junior School, now able to take over the additional accommodation.

SPORT OF 1938 - WILLIAM TEMPLE MAGAZINE EDITOR

UNDER 12 FOOTBALL RESULTS

Friarage School 0	The School 13
High School 1	The School 13
St. Peter's School 0	The School 10

PLAY UP! PLAY UP! AND PLAY THE GAME!

MUSICAL MEMORIES

By Miss Margaret Parnaby (Pupil 1926-1933 Teacher 1952-1976)

I have many happy and rewarding memories of teaching music at Gladstone Road and vividly remember the Carol Concerts at various venues in the town. The Schools Music Festivals, The Eskdale Tournament of Song at Whitby and the various concerts at Local Over Sixties' Clubs all remind me of the dedication of pupils, teachers and parents. In 1961 the Recorder Group made a ten inch record which included three chorales.

I particularly remember however the day when my Fourth Year Class and I, together with Mr. and Mrs. R. Hall went on a day visit to Rievaulx Abbey in 1959. In the ruins of the nave the Recorder Group played hymns and the rest of the class sang to their accompaniment. Unbeknown to me we were being photographed by a Ministry of Works photographer, Mr. A.E. Broadribb. Some days later I received a copy of this photograph together with a most appreciative letter from him saying how much he had enjoyed the children's music making.

A particular vote of thanks goes to my skilful and hardworking colleagues, Mrs. Nell Young, Mr. G.W. Greaves, Mr. H.J. Penny (who often joined us from the Sixth Form College), the late Miss R. Horsman and the late Mr. W. Doyle. Thanks also to the peripatetic string teachers, Mr. Kim Butler and Mr. David Ellery. I have several tapes which were recorded at various events and spend many a nostalgic hour enjoying again the happy memories of the Music at Gladstone Road School.



Miss Parnaby's Recorder Group May 1958.

'MEMORIES FROM THE SIXTIES'

By Janet Carr

In the Infants we had a cage at the back of the classroom where we kept our P.E. pumps. Two of the teachers I can remember were Miss Green and Miss Bean.

We always used to sing 'Jerusalem' on the last assembly of the Junior Term. Mr. Hall, the headmaster, used to take the assembly and Mr. Weale used to help him. Mr. Weale was sadly killed on Scalby Road a few years ago.

On a trip to London, I remember buying my presents in Woolworths.

We had a hobbies exhibition each year and we had to take something for this. The points we gained from this were put towards our house.

Some of the teachers I remember were: Mrs. Lees, Miss Geldard, Mr. Morley, Miss Parnaby and Mrs. Young.



Junior School Staff of the late sixties.
 Rear: Miss S. Geldard, Mr. N.S. Bogie, Mr. J.D. Morley, Mr. W. Doyle,
 Mr. G. Howard, Mr. G. Greaves (caretaker), Mrs. R. Ware (secretary).
 Front: Mrs. D. Anderson, Mrs. S. Lees, Miss R. Horseman, Mr. S.B. Hall (headmaster),
 Mr. H.N. Weale, Miss M.J. Parnaby and Mrs. N.E. Young.



School Photograph taken in 1969.
 Teacher Mr. Weale.

A TIME OF CHANGE

Mr. H.R. Bedford (Former Headteacher)

In 1970 both Gladstone Road Schools were full to capacity, with some three hundred children in the Infant School and five hundred in the Juniors. Small groups were taught in the staff room. Needlework, music and T.V. lessons were held in the Dining Hall - only recently converted from three classrooms in the Senior School. A strategy for improvements was devised in consultation with the Education Authority. Strong support came from a Parents Action Group which targeted the outside toilets as priority number one. These were the original draughty retreats, set against the boundary walls of Wykeham Street. They were demolished. Large cloakrooms in both schools were adapted to provide modern toilets with washbowls and hot and cold water.

Two prefabricated classrooms were hoisted by crane into the lower playground and allocated for infant School use. In each playground stood a square building with a lantern style roof. Thoughtfully isolated to minimise disturbance, they had been used by the Senior Boys for science and craftwork. Now full of junk, they were cleaned, renovated and used as classrooms. An old air-raid shelter was adapted as a general storeroom.

The Eleven Plus Examination came to an end.

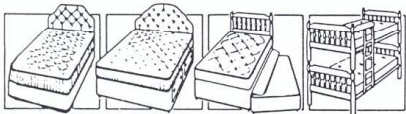
The increasing use of T.V. programmes for schools set us the major task of providing a television for each classroom. Within three years this was achieved with money raised by special efforts in school.

French for Primary Schools was introduced as a pilot scheme. Gladstone Road was one of the few schools in North Yorkshire to undertake the planned programme, based mainly on tape recorded lessons using authentic French speakers.

Indeed, we went further and made contact with a school in St. Brieuc in Northern France. The next obvious step was an exchange visit. Secondary Schools had done this for years. Could it be done by a Primary School? After discussions with parents and consultations with our French colleagues we decided to take a small group of about eighteen fourth year children to France. They travelled by train, plane and coach to St. Brieuc in the Spring of 1973 and stayed for three or four days. Each morning they attended school and in the afternoons went on organised visits together with their French friends. Hospitality was provided by parents and teachers. Some six weeks later the French children visited Gladstone Road where we carried out a similar programme of events.

These exchange visits went on for several years and were considerably helped by the enthusiasm of Sheila Geldard and Pat Smith on our own staff and teachers in St. Brieuc; notably Sheila Quinio and Marie Cadillon.

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THE LAKE DISTRICT SCHOOL TRIP - 1978

By Kathie Ellis

School trips have been organised for Gladstone Road pupils for as long as anyone can remember. My first ever school trip was a day out at the Zoo and Marineland in Scarborough when I was in the first year of the Infants. The trip I remember best, however, is the four days I spent at the luxurious Burn How Motel in Bowness.

There were four of us in each chalet; this meant a lot of excitement and giggling at bedtime. I now admit, all these years later, that I took along a bag of comics and we all read in bed long after "lights out".

We visited Brockhole, the National Trust's information centre, where we saw models of Beatrix Potter and some of her characters. One of the Lake District's most famous landmarks is the little house on the bridge at Ambleside. I have always been fascinated by this tiny house, with one room upstairs and one downstairs. The house was in those days a National Trust gift shop, where I bought some of the ubiquitous Beatrix Potter postcards.

On the next day of the trip we visited Muncaster Mill. I remember riding on a miniature railway, buying a bag of flour as a souvenir for my mum and that it rained heavily all day! All too soon our holiday in the Lake District came to an end and it was time to go back to Scarborough. I had taken a whole film of photos and perhaps the best known was one of Mrs. Clothier, Mr. Cocking, Mr. Brocklehurst and Bernard the bus driver. Thank you to all the Gladstone Road teachers who have organised residential visits - long may they continue!

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FOOTBALL IN THE SEVENTIES

By Mr. D.L. Brocklehurst (former teacher)

The name Cyril Bell will conjure memories of the dedicated groundsman, who for many years made sure that the boys and girls from Gladstone Road and other Scarborough Schools would have warm changing facilities whenever they visited Northstead Playing Fields whether in Games Lessons, after school, or on Saturday mornings.

In my possession I have a small trophy engraved with my name presented by Gladstone Road boys which is something I will always treasure. This group was typical in its enthusiasm despite not having the facilities at the school enjoyed by many of the others in the town.

A cursory glance at the Evening News, 23rd March 1990, revealed 'Hoggarth, Corcoran, Glew, Garton, Vasey and Blanchard' some of the many players at Glago in the seventies. It is gratifying to know that trudging all the way to Northstead after school has not discouraged them from continuing playing the game they enjoy. Long may it be so!