

# MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE



**Memories of the Burgh School**



**1888—1967**

## Introduction

The building which was for many years the Burgh School is situated on Abbey Street beside the Cosmos Centre. When the Burgh amalgamated with Madras College and moved to Kilyrmont Road in 1967, the building was taken over by Greyfriars Primary School who remained there until moving to Langlands in 2009. The building is now used by the University.



The Burgh School came into existence as a result of the 1872 Education Act, which made school attendance compulsory for all children up to the age of 13. In most of the smaller Scottish towns all the children of secondary age went to the same school irrespective of ability or parental income. However, in St Andrews there was a problem. As Madras College was fee paying, secondary age children from less affluent families had to be retained in the Primary Schools in a class usually known as the Advanced Division.

The new act provided for the election of School Boards to manage education at local level. The St Andrews School Board tried for many years to reach an agreement with the Madras College Trustees for the provision of places there for those pupils unable to afford the fees. It was not until 1888 that the government's Education Commissioners intervened and authorized the building of a new Board School. The School Board looked at several sites, but rejected them as beyond their allocated budget. However, prominent local businessman George Bruce (chiefly remembered for the Bruce Embankment) owned the land at the top of Abbey Street known as St Leonard's Fields. He sold three and a half acres of this to the School Board. This became the site of the new Board School, which opened its doors in 1890.

In 1928 Madras was taken over by Fife Council and fees were abolished. However, it became what was called a selective Senior Secondary. Entry depended on the results of the Qualifying Examination, taken by all Primary 7 pupils. This was a national examination, which was introduced as early as 1903. It became the equivalent of the English 11+ and was much dreaded by pupils and parents. 'The Quali', as it was popularly known, consisted of two IQ tests, taken some months apart, papers in English and Arithmetic and an English essay. Results were in the form of a so-called 'Adjusted Average' and those who attained a sufficiently high standard were assigned to 5-year Certificate courses and in St Andrews attended Madras. Those assigned to 3-year non-Certificate courses attended the Burgh School. This unfair and divisive system continued until 1964 when selection by ability was phased out and the Burgh School became Madras College Junior High School. This was a temporary solution until the Kilyrmont Road building was completed in 1967.

The following recollections have been contributed by:-

Mrs Pat Anthony  
Mrs Lena Croll  
Mrs Aileen Macleod  
Miss Irene Redford

Mr Ted Brocklebank  
Mr Andrew Lindsay  
Mr Dennis Martin  
Mr Melville Reid

Miss Elizabeth Bushnell  
Mr Donald MacGregor  
Dr Peter Murray  
Mr Bob Simpson

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**<http://www.madrascollegearchive.org.uk>**

*David Galloway, Arlen Pardoe, December 2013*

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## **Memories of the Burgh School—Lena Croll [Helena Gibson McIntyre]**

I started at the West Infant School in 1924. There were three or four classes at that time (in all classes boys and girls were taught together). The headmistress -presumably actually the Infant Mistress - was Miss Barnett. She had a hat and flat feet and the only PE provided was walking in a crocodile following her round the perimeter of the school. She had flat feet and there was a tendency to copy her walk - unseen, of course. I think I spent two or three years there.

The East Infant school was the next stage, where there were two? classes. On one occasion when I had gone out to the [outside) toilet, I was confronted on the way back - a bit to my consternation - by an Indian [of the Cowboys and Indian persuasion) complete with long feathered headdress. It turned out that a circus had come to town and he was trying to sell tickets to the school. I think I was there for two years. The "headmistress", as we saw her, was a Miss Sturrock who left a strong impression. She was a person of very positive views who lived in College Street. I think she was known as "a local character". My abiding memory of PE there was being absolutely frozen at school sports on the East Sands at *Christmas* time!

Then it was time to move to the Burgh School proper, probably for P5/6? and P7. The Headmaster was Mr Anderson. At that time the Advanced Division also was part of the Burgh School. The three teachers I remember were Mrs Graham, who was a very good teacher, and her niece, Miss Scott, who survived because she had the support of Miss Graham, and a Miss Rutherford - a rather mousey person. PE was conducted at the Burgh School by an ex-army instructor (whether he was a Sergeant or a Sergeant Major I don't know, but we had the impression of at least "Sergeant"). We did what was done at the time which was "Drill" - in lines doing exercises in unison. (No equipment needed - terribly economic). The gym was in a building on the site of the present Cosmos Centre. The gym was on the ground floor and the Techie department upstairs.

The only time I got the belt was in Primary 7 when I managed to recite the Ten Commandments in the wrong order! That apart I have very happy memories of my school career there.

At the end of P7 we had an exam - probably the Qualifying exam - which we sat in the school with no real fuss, and no idea about how it might shape one's future. So it came as a bit of a surprise when an number of us were told to go to South Street on a Saturday morning and sit another exam - possibly what was called a "Control" exam? My memory of that exam is that I had to write a descriptive essay so I wrote about a walk along the Lade Braes including at some point that I was "affronted by a bank of primroses" - it obviously niggled throughout the exam and I think I went back and changed it to "confronted".

As a Part time teacher from 1947 - 1960, I taught in Primaries and various Junior Secondaries in the neighbourhood, one of which was the Burgh School - by now was a Junior Secondary (although the Primary remained for a bit??) PE had moved on a bit by then but there was at least some moveable equipment. The Special class (made up of pupils from a wider area) was taught alongside the pupils in the Burgh School at that time.

The Headmaster when I taught there was Mr Chalmers, and Mr Macaulay (a man from the Islands - possibly Benbecula) was the assistant head. His nickname was "Tobermory" - a bit of a geographical confusion. His dress was a bit eccentric. He wore trousers which were too narrow for the fashion and at least 4 or 5 inches too short. And he was very tall and gangly - definitely a "character". One of my favourite memories of this time was a staff meeting in the Tudor Cafe where Mr Chalmers was laying out his plans for the school and Mr Macaulay objected to nearly all of them, until finally Mr Chalmers snapped and said "Go to Hell, Macaulay" to which Mr Macaulay replied in a very gentle Highland accent - "Now why would I be wanting to go there Mr Chalmers, when my duty is here at the Burgh school."

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## Memories of the Burgh School - Miss Irene Redford

The Burgh School was really three buildings –

- (1) The Burgh School in Abbey Walk comprised infants, juniors, seniors and an advanced division plus cookery and handwork:
- (2) East Infant (Fisher School) juniors and
- (3) West Infant 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infants. The school was two stream and all classes were mixed and numbered from 30 to 40±.

My first headmaster was Mr. Anderson (and preceding him was Mr King - whom I did not know, but did learn this jingle:

*Mr King with the teapot nose,  
Went to church on Sunday,  
To pray to God to give him strength,  
To punish the boys on Monday.*

The second headmaster was Mr Hugh Chalmers, a strict disciplinarian with the aid of the belt.

I entered the West Infant in 1928. Miss Barnett was the Infant Head-teacher and the rest of the staff were Miss Boyd, Miss Brown, Miss Hogg and Miss Cook. Class sizes were 40+, but discipline was no problem. The tawse was there, but not often in use.

Learning to read was a class exercise with a series of pictures hung over the blackboard. Under the picture was the story and Miss Boyd pointed to the word and the class chanted together, e.g. The c-a-t, cat, s-a-t, sat on the m-a-t, mat. Then we progressed to books, according to ability, forming groups. Being able to read before going to school, I was very bored with Miss Boyd and her pointer. Counting and number facts I don't recall, but presumably it was first a class lesson and then individual work. Printing too took up a lot of time and practice was necessary. There was no room for PE, so it was the playground, weather permitting. Frosty weather was welcomed with long slides and, on my part, jealousy of the boys with tackety boots, which made the sparks fly!

The girls were taught knitting and sewing (I still have the prize book for knitting!) and the boys were occupied with handwork mainly cardboard and crayoning.

Mrs Younger sent in from Mount Melville a churn of milk and those who wished to have a drink brought their own cup or mug – so predating the one third of a pint bottles introduced later.

I recall at the end of the first year there was a concert held in the classroom and a singing game was produced in costume called 'Briar Rosebud'. Then later several classes took part in a concert held in Hope Park Church Hall. I remember resenting having to take part in an Irish Jig when another class was putting on a Cracker Dance.

The East Infant had three teachers, Miss Simpson, Miss Robb and Miss Sturrock. Helen Sturrock was my teacher for two years and reading, writing and arithmetic were the

order of the day. When finished any exercise and waiting for the laggards to catch up, I spent the time memorising the word "accommodation" which featured on a notice hanging on the wall regarding the number of pupils who could be seated in the room! Miss Sturrock was a talented singer and sang alto Holy Trinity Church choir (and also played the bells) so we learned many hymns and enjoyed singing folk songs, both of which I still enjoy. Again, there was no PE. The playground was comparatively small and exercises were confined to the classroom.

I then transferred to the Burgh School where there were more teachers. Miss Robb (younger sister of the East Infant Miss Robb) taught the Infant Class. This was to accommodate the youngsters from the east end of St Andrews to save them the long journey to the West Infants.

The teachers, as I remember, were Miss Rutherford, Miss Grieve, Miss McIntyre, Mr Auchterlonie, Mrs Graham, Miss Simpson (sister of the Miss Simpson at the Fisher School), and for the Advanced Division (those pupils not transferring to Madras College) Miss Molly Scott and Mr Macaulay. There was also Miss Duncan (cookery) and Mrs Donald (sewing and knitting).

Because of the two streams, the pupils who were six months older moved into a kind of Advanced Division for six months.

When it came to the "Quali", which we sat on a Saturday morning, in a strange school (Madras College) along with pupils from the surrounding country schools, the test was administered by an unknown teacher, Miss Alice Craig, who handled the scared stiff pupils before her with great aplomb. I wonder what the parents of today would think of this arrangement.

Back to teaching in the Burgh School – as an incentive to learning spelling and tables each class sat tests on Friday morning. When these were corrected the results were sent to the Headmaster and the class with the highest score was allowed away early on the Friday afternoon. It worked!

As far as I remember, there were no school trips, no assemblies and no concerts. Occasionally, we had PE down in the gym and once in a blue moon we walked to the Recreation Park, home of the St Andrews United Football team. The ground belonged to the Town Council and thus the Burgh School was permitted to go there for games and Sports.

The Burgh School and the East and West Infants transferred to the new Langlands School about 1963 or 1964. The West Infants was considered unfit for the pupils who transferred to Langlands but it was alright for Madras Kinder who had to make do with out-of-date outside toilets until the new Canongate School was ready for occupation in 1972.

The Primary pupils having gone to Langlands, the Burgh School became a Junior High School for Madras and remained so until Madras Kilrymont was finished.

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## Memories of the Burgh School - Melville Reid Remembers

One of our oldest Former Pupils, Melville Reid, remembers his days at the Burgh School.

Headmasters in the 1930s and 40s were Mr Anderson, Mr Macaulay and Mr Chambers. They were followed in the 1950s by Mr Inglis. Classes were mixed and usually numbered 30+.

He remembers the 'Quali'<sup>1</sup>, but didn't really understand what it was for. He remembers that that the tawse was used and that they had football in Recreation Park once a week on Thursday afternoons. He particularly remembers one of his teachers, Mrs Graham, describing her as a lovely person.

In 1932 she had the class play characters from *Aesop's Fables* in which Melville appeared as Brer Fox.



Performance of Aesop's Fables by pupils of Mrs Graham 1932  
?, ?, Tom Edie, ?, Melville Reid



Melville as Brer Fox

In 1933 Melville was runner-up for the Dux Medal. The Dux was Archie Drummond.

Another photograph, taken in 1935, shows a fellow pupil, Graham Grieve<sup>2</sup>, standing in South Street where the shops in the background are decorated for the Silver Jubilee.



Graham Grieve

- 1 The Qualifying Examination for Secondary School, taken by all Primary 7 pupils.
- 2 Sadly, Graham died not long afterwards.

## Memories of the Burgh School - Mrs Pat Anthony

My first teacher on arrival at the Burgh School was Mrs Catto. She was very strict and I don't really have any fond memories of her. We were a class of approximately 30 pupils and I have enclosed a photograph of the next class we moved into (1951 photo at end). Miss McIntyre was our teacher and I have very fond memories of her. She was an excellent teacher who encouraged pupils and in fact I was given my first ever prize for progress under her tuition. She also encouraged me to enter a national hand writing competition run by the Weekly News. On the day I received my Progress prize I was called out again to receive a card with two half crown savings stamps and a commendation – my prize for writing 'Black Bob'.

Miss McIntyre made English lessons so interesting and I still remember the wonderment of understanding how to use a dictionary under her guidance. To this day I remember what a Mahout was after she told us to look it up in the dictionary – an Indian elephant driver. Two of the books she asked us to home read were 'The Thirty Nine Steps' and 'Prester John' – I didn't enjoy the latter!

When anyone misbehaved in class - mostly boys – they were sent to stand outside Mr Chalmers, the headmaster's door. If he opened the door and found anyone there they were taken in and given the belt on their hands. I cannot recall what I had done to deserve to be sent along with a boy to stand outside the door, but as we waited for the dreaded call, my partner in crime suggested we return to our class, wringing our hands without waiting for Mr Chalmers to call us in. We must have been good actors as we got away with it!

There was a building at the back of the school called the Myton ? hut. This was for pupils not suitable in some ways for main stream schooling and was unfortunately called the 'Loony hut' by some not politically correct children.

We were all dreading this exam they called the 'Quali' but it was the easiest test I ever sat and I got into the A stream at Madras College. At play time we played with skipping ropes or balls and for a while there was a craze of making pompoms with coloured wool. We also made rats tails which involved a cotton reel with four nails hammered in the top. Wool was wound round and a long tail emerged through the bottom of the reel. The boys would make long slides during the icy weather and we would take turns to have a go. Fights were common and we would gather round while two boys would batter one another – my brother was often involved! I can't remember any trips while I was at the Burgh school.

At the time we lived at Denhead and came in every day by school bus – a short journey as we were second last to be picked up. The return journey was a different story altogether as we were second last to be dropped off and the bus went all round the countryside first. I felt sick every night on that long journey home.

Other teachers I remember were Mr Auchterlonie, Miss Gray who terrified everyone, Mr Croll who taught gym, Mr Steele and the janitor was Mr Rankine. Miss McIntyre married quite late in life and became Mrs Jean Fletcher. On my 60th birthday, 10 years ago she sent me a small gift. She died in Craigmount nursing home a few years ago.



## Memories of the Burgh School - Mr Ted Brocklebank

### THE BURGH SKALE'S AN AWFY SKALE...'

'If memory serves I went to the Burgh school in 1951, having previously attended the West and East Infant ('Fisher') primaries. The Burgh was a fairly daunting place where primary pupils mixed with junior secondary kids of up to 15 years. Although there were separate play areas there didn't seem to be much division and I still remember getting my backside kicked for being cheeky to one of the teenage Wardlaws from the Grange.

'Chinky' Chalmers was the headmaster.

*'The Burgh skale's an awfy skale,  
it's a' dane up in plaister;  
but the only thing that worries me's  
the baldy heided maister'*

we would chant. He certainly had a bald head and he wielded a mean Lochgelly 'heavy'. Discipline and belting seemed to be more important than learning at this new school.

All the teachers belted, some with less reason than others. If the crime had been particularly heinous, it was: 'wait outside the door till Mr. Chalmers collects you.' What seems unfair even at this great remove was that pupils were belted for simply not knowing the answers to questions posed. I'm sure I deserved all the beltings administered. I was lippy and seemed to be in fights all the time. I ran with a group that vowed never to let our belters see us in tears. Later, as we ran cold tap water on blistered wrists we strutted our youthful macho. Hardly felt it! But there was something sickening about watching shy, obedient class-mates reduced to tears, not because they had been cheeky or disruptive, but because they had failed a long division sum or misspelt a word. Miss G was the worst belter. She had rimless glasses, thin lips and wore no makeup. No Nazi interrogator ever inspired more terror. She only became animated when yanking out her belt from her desk, shrieking: 'Come out to the front, boy'. Mr. A, the woodwork teacher, was normally a bluff old cove. But even he could lose it when, for example, a victim withdrew his hand at the last minute or refused to accept the belt. I can remember Mr. A chasing one culprit round the woodwork benches slashing away at his legs with an 18" long Lochgelly 'heavy'. Even at ten we knew the real loser was Mr. A.

But there were other teachers who didn't need to rely on the belt to keep their classes interested and involved. Tom Roche, who taught the seniors history and drama, was one. Tom was one of the founders of the Byre theatre and loved words. I can see him still, a slim rakish figure who wore a signature Sinatra soft hat and had been to Canada. He was the epitome of cool. He inspired a number of his junior secondary pupils to perform in Byre productions. Andy Soutar comes to mind, but there were others who went on to work in fairly mundane jobs yet who found a lifelong interest in theatre thanks to Tom Roche.

Miss Rutherford, who lived near the West Port was another remarkably gifted teacher. She seemed to detect some early promise and encouraged me in English, particularly

essays, and art. Most of my contemporaries were determined to leave school at 15. Had it not been for Miss Rutherford's encouragement and advice I would have followed my pals into baker's apprenticeships or the Navy at best, labouring or caddying at worst.

One of our Burgh junior secondary heroes at the time was a gifted footballer who later went on to play with Denis Law for the Scottish schoolboys and then for East Fife and Dunfermline. A clever lad he passed his 'qually' with ease but chose not to go to Madras because they didn't play football there. He has never stopped regretting his mistake. Miss Rutherford more than anyone prevented me making the same one.

When she was off I had the good fortune to be taught by 'Paddy' MacAulay who also taught my mother as a 10-year-old at the Burgh. Paddy was Ishbel MacAulay's father. Ishbel, a gifted teacher herself, later married Professor Jim Whyte and sadly passed on last year.

Paddy, who came from Lewis and had the knack of making history interesting, fired my 10-year-old imagination with tales of Trafalgar and Horatio Nelson. Paddy read us the poem Henry Newbolt had written in honour of the Victory's sister ship, the Temeraire, and showed us the famous painting by Turner, 'the Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth'. Suddenly it dawned that history, poetry and art might be interconnected. I decided that I was either to be a poet or an artist. If to achieve my ambition I had to go to Madras and forfeit my chances of playing for Scotland at Hampden so be it.

The Burgh was where I first met Keith Neilson. A former army PE instructor and excellent dancer, Keith had a peripatetic PE role with the Burgh and other NE Fife schools. We have been friends for nearly 60 years, political allies for more than a decade. Also on the PE staff was Miss Grant, an attractive red-head who later married Dr. Caithness. Tom Croll was the senior 'gym' teacher. I think he must have had a combined role with Madras at the time. I was later to meet up with him again – and learn about serious belting and rugby - when I moved to Madras after he had become senior PE teacher there.

The 'gym' hall was in the separate building behind the current Cosmos centre. At the back of the school were a number of temporary buildings, including the woodwork hut and a 'special needs' building. There was also the 'dinner hut'. The smell was so bad I was glad my parents couldn't afford to pay for school meals.

On both sides of the Burgh were housed St. Leonard's girls – no boys in these days. We knew they weren't allowed to talk to us, but we would wave to them when they appeared at the windows of their residences or marched in crocodile up Abbey walk. Sometimes they waved back. Emboldened, even aged ten, we discovered that there was a passage under Abbey Walk leading from the main school to the Abbey Park residences. We would dare one another to run underground from one side of the road to the other, dodging the 'young ladies' and emerging to embroider the tale. We learned that the 'young ladies' had their own swimming pool, cut out of the rocks behind the castle, and in the early summer months we spied on them from the overhanging cliffs while trying to evade the projectile vomiting of nesting fulmars.

It was while I was coming home from the Burgh one lunchtime with my special pal, Sandy Gulbrandsen, that I heard from our next-door neighbour that King George VI had died. It was February 5, 1952. Later, a girl pupil and I – Betty Marshall I think - were selected to represent the Burgh primary at the proclamation ceremony in Market square. The following June we attended All Saint’s Church for a special Coronation service and I recall the minister interrupting affairs to tell us that a British expedition led by Sir John Hunt had conquered Mount Everest. We cheered dutifully.

To commemorate the Coronation all school-age children were given a mug, a bar of chocolate and a tiny New Testament with a white paper cover. I have it still. Later, Miss Rutherford told me that I had gained an A pass in the ‘qually’ and would be going to Madras. There had been a lot of tests – including some at the University for which I was paid two shillings a session – but I don’t remember ever sitting a formal exam.

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The School Tie

## Memories of the Burgh School - Mr Dennis Martin

I list below some of my memories from August 1962 until July 1967:-

At that time you sat the 11+ at the end of Primary 7. If you passed you progressed to Madras College, South Street and if you failed you went to the Burgh Secondary School, Abbey Walk.

The 'feeder' Primary schools were more or less the same as they are now + Madras Primary School, although I cannot remember anyone in my year from the Tayport area, but there was quite a number in the year behind me. The school roll was about 400-450 pupils. The normal leaving age was 15. The school day was from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, with a 15 minute break in the morning and an hour at lunch time. I can never remember the school being closed due to the weather and my second year included the winter of 1963. On a wet day pupils were allowed into their classes and were supervised by a prefect, usually one per class. The Headmaster was Mr Inglis and his deputy was Mr Wallace. Mr Inglis and the Janitor, Mr Gourlay, stayed in the house next to the school.

The Burgh School had a reputation, unfounded in my opinion, as a rough school. It changed its name to Madras Junior High School in August 1964, but many pupils, including me, continued to refer to it as the Burgh School, such was the pride we had in our school.

The school had a 'Tuck Shop' which was open at morning interval and lunch time. This was 'staffed' by senior pupils and the main items were mars bars, milky ways and penny chews. Mr Cook, head of Maths, was the teacher in charge of the 'Tuck Shop'.

The majority of the classes were various huts etc. around the main building. There were about 11 class rooms in the main building and about 16 classes outside the main building + 2 art classes at East Infant. The boys toilet for urinating was outside and open to the elements. The gym doubled up as the daily dining hall and the assembly hall. Assembly was every Thursday morning from 9.00 am to 9.30 am and the Rev. Paterson from Martyrs Church was always in attendance. There was a separate class for the Roman Catholic pupils, usually about 30-35 and Fr. Gordon took these pupils in one of the classes for instruction.

Discipline was strict by today's standards. Nobody wanted to be sent to 'Auld Eck' for 6 of the best. You normally got about 1-2 hours of home work per night and this had to be done at the appropriate time, or else!!!! Apart from the usual team sports against other schools there were a number of clubs, e.g. chess club. The school had a bothy at Glen Tilt, which I believe they still have to this day.

After Mr Wallace spent some time at a school in the U.S.A. he started a weekly school newspaper on his return to the Burgh. This was printed on a Thursday evening and sold around classes on a Friday for 1d (old money). There was a competition to find a name for the newspaper and Christine Craig, who was in my class, won with the name 'Abbey Times'. Each week the editorial staff bought a record for 6s 8d and played it a number of times until they had all the words. They would then print the words in the Abbey Times and sell on the record as second hand. The last record at the Burgh was the Procol

Harum's classic 'A Whiter Shade of Pale' which was No 1 in the charts for 6 weeks in June/July 1967. The last editor of the Abbey Times at the Burgh was myself.

Class sizes were about 30-35 pupils and the classes were:- 1A, 1B, (August intake) and 1F, 1G (February intake). The 'A's' and 'F's' were the top classes and these were the same for second and third year. In fourth year the class was 4A. There sometimes were 'C' classes as well and there was a Special Needs Class, taken by Miss Forrest. This was one class and it had a much wider range of ages. The smallest class I was ever in was 3 pupils in my first fourth year for Nautical Studies with Mr Langlands.

Each class was mixed with boys and girls, but for certain subjects, e.g. P.E., Games, Technical/Domestic Studies the boys and girls were separate. Two out of the three art classes were held at the East Infant (Fisher School) next to the Cathedral. This is now Kirkhill, sheltered housing. To walk from Abbey Walk you were given 10 minutes each way, with 5 minutes taken from each class for 'travel time'.

Languages (French) was introduced in my second year for 'A' pupils. Mr Inglis, the head master, told us if we did not join the French class we would be put back to a 'B' class. Many pupils said they would rebel, but when it came to the crunch only 2, Margaret Kidd and myself had the 'bottle' to carry it through. Mr Inglis later denied that he said that any pupil who did not join the French Class would be demoted. Our class started with the 2 of us, but after a few months a number of pupils 'defected', until the French class was the smaller of the two classes.

'O' grades were introduced during my time at the Burgh and it was not unusual for the top pupils to pass up to 5 subjects. Some pupils would then go to Madras College to study for 'Highers'.

All games were held at Stanks Park, the same park that Kilrymont pupils use to this day. We walked from Abbey Walk to Stanks Park for our double games period once a week. From August to the Easter holidays, football, hockey and rugby were played. After Easter it was athletics and cricket. Our sports day was held there up until 1965. The 1966 and 1967 sports days were held at Station Park, separate from Madras College sports day. The last girls sports champion was Helen Connah and the last boys sports champion was myself. In the winter everyone changed in an old wooden hut which always smelled strongly of creosote. In the summer we changed outside and if you were lucky you would get a fence post to act as a peg for your clothes. There were no washing facilities what so ever.

All pupils were put in a 'house' on day one and given a 'house' badge, which they had to wear on their blazers. The 'houses' were, Bruce (Blue), Douglas (Red), Marr (Green), Stewart (Yellow). The 'houses' were often used when different class teams were required. There was a house championship where points were awarded on sports day and for academic performance. Each house had a captain and vice captain for boys AND girls. These pupils were normally from the final year. The final house championship results at the Burgh in 1967 was:-

- |              |       |              |       |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1. Stewart - | 356.5 | 2. Douglas - | 316.5 |
| 3. Man -     | 306   | 4. Bruce -   | 283   |

There were prefects, about 14 boys and 14 girls, appointed by the teachers. The prefects would appoint a head boy and head girl and a senior prefect for each sex. The last head boy was myself, with William Deas as senior boy prefect. The last head girl was Catherine Robertson, with Dorothy Bumett as senior girl prefect. The first head boy at Kilrymont was William Deas, with Michael Shine as senior boy prefect. The first head girl at Kilrymont was Anne Leadbetter, with Joyce Melville as senior girl prefect.

## TEACHERS

Headmaster -	Mr Inglis
Art -	Mr Scott (Head), Mr Chisholm, Mr Edwards
`C' Classes -	Miss Brace, Mrs Robertson
Domestic Science -	Mrs Henderson
English -	Mr Wallace (Head), Mrs Auchterlonie, Mrs Millar, Miss Scott
French -	Mr Grove
Gardening -	Mr Piper
German -	Mr McGregor
Geography -	Mr Roche
History -	Mr Simpson
Janitor -	Mr Gouriay
Maths -	Mr Cook (Head), Mr Blakey replaced Miss Mark (August 1964), Mr Noble
Music -	Mrs Roche, Mrs Rosie
Nautical Subjects -	Mr Langlands
P.E -	Miss Adie, Mr Neilson
Science -	Mr McKirdy (Head), Mr Auchterlonie, Mrs Napier
Special Needs Class -	Miss Forrest
Technical -	Mr Kinghom (Head), Mr Close, Mr McGavin, Mr McKenzie

That is as many teachers as I can remember. I would say that is about 95% of them. When they came to the Burgh, they tended to stay for a long time.

I hope this is of some help to you. I was very, very proud to have gone to the Burgh school for 5 years. The school had fantastic character and I have many, many happy memories of my time there.

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## **Memories of the Burgh School - Mr Bob Simpson (1958 – 1967)**

I joined the staff of the Burgh School when Guardbridge and Leuchars Secondary Departments closed down in 1958. Mr Alex. Inglis was the headmaster and I joined the English History/ Geography Department under Mr David Wallace. I was later appointed Principal Teacher of History/Geography, a post I held until Madras Junior High School was created and I became Depute Head of History/Modern Studies at Kilrymont (1967 – 69).

Class sizes at the Burgh were much bigger. I can recall around 35 – 38 pupils per class as normal. There were two intakes each year, one in February and one in August hence classes were named as 1F and 1A with a separate remedial section under Miss Brace. There was also a group of Special Needs pupils under Miss Forrest.

There was some form of streaming of intakes, e.g. 1F/1G - 1A/1B etc. Changes in subject matter developed with the introduction of the "Patch" method of teaching History where specific areas or periods were studied rather than a purely chronological method; also multiple choice testing was introduced.

Parental pressure was sometimes expressed with a number of parents objecting to a two tier system – Madras for the brightest and the Burgh sometimes referred to as "the rubbish tip". The creation of Madras Junior High helped to ease this discrimination but a stigma remained, only partially resolved by the move to Kilrymont.

As far as discipline was concerned, if the use of the strap was fair, I think most pupils accepted this sanction, although, on reflection, I am now quite shocked at its use as a disciplinary tool.

With reference to my own subject, the success we had in the Saltire Society entry made history more meaningful to pupils, as did our proximity to the Castle and Cathedral.

I have happy memories of my time at the Burgh. Some memorable staff members were: "Granny" Graham, a supply teacher of the "Old School", kind but very strict; Mr Auchterlonie, a Science teacher, used to regale us with screeds of poetry he had memorised from his youth; Tom Roche was a popular teacher who used to bring Geography alive with slide shows of his holidays abroad. I remember Miss Mark with her perfect aim in throwing chalk at troublesome pupils and also our beloved "Janny", John Gourlay, who was not only the best golfer of us all, but showed a certain compassion by not ringing the morning bell until the last straggler made it into the playground.

I hope some of this information is of use in compiling a history of the "Old Burgh".

I am still amazed by the many comments I get from ex-pupils, some of them in their sixties now, remembering with a couthy nostalgia their happy memories of bygone days. It makes my efforts seem worthwhile.

## **The *Abbey Times* Remembered (Part 1)**

**Mr J D Wallace**

It was born on the 17th April 1964. The 4th year English class at the Burgh Secondary School had just sat their first "O" Grade English exams. There were still several weeks before the end of term and I decided to fulfil an ambition of mine. This was to create a weekly school newspaper written and run by pupils. It was to be quite different from the average school magazine. The newspaper envisaged would be factual and accurate, and would concentrate on reliable accounts of the events which affected pupils. What I had not realised was the amount of organisational work required.

The paper, christened *Abbey Times* (the school buildings were in Abbey Street) after a competition for pupils, took hold very quickly and by the end of the session was selling about 300 copies each week in a school with a roll of some 400. From then on each new session brought frequent questions of "When is *Abbey Times* going to start this year?"

Three cardinal rules were laid down from the beginning: nothing should be printed that had been written by any adult, including school staff, except in letters to the Editor; no named individual, staff or pupil, could be abused in the columns; and news stories must be as true as possible. These were underlined when an early editor wrote an editorial wrongly criticising staff and had to apologise in the paper for his inaccuracies, and items from the paper were published in local and national newspapers. During the next ten years *Abbey Times* grew until a world record could be set up, and then again broken, for the number of copies sold as a percentage of the population served. This stood at 97.2%. Readership surveys showed that each copy was read by more than 4 people, a readership of well over 3,500.

*Abbey Times* brought two major advantages, one educational and one social. The pupils who wrote were experiencing writing for a definite purpose and seeing the result in print immediately, and often had the satisfaction of seeing their work quoted in local and national newspapers. It was also a team effort. About 100 pupils were involved in producing each issue. The jobs, regularly each week, were collecting news stories, writing the items (some 2,500 words each week), subediting, rough make-up, typing, duplicating (the handle was turned over half-a-million times in producing the 700,000 copies in 350 issues), checking, stapling and selling. Parents frequently said that it was the only source of information about what went on in the school.

For ten years the price was one penny, but it still made a profit. There were no wage bills to be paid, the workers being usually willing volunteers. The profit was spent on equipment for the school and on trophies.

*ABBNEY TIMES*



## Weekly Duties:

MONDAY	Editorial conference. Lucky number draw. Comment on last week's issue.
TUESDAY	Reporters find stories for Friday's issue and write items.
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Afternoon - Items are sub-edited, headlined and positioned on pages. Evening - Pages are typed & headlines stenciled.
FRIDAY	Morning - The pages are printed and stapled together. Each copy is numbered. Afternoon - The Abbey Times is sold.

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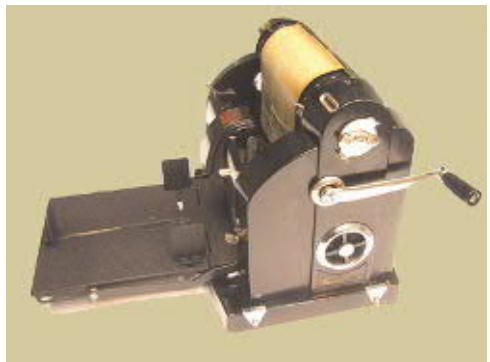
## **The *Abbey Times* Remembered (Part 2)**

**Mr Andrew Lindsay**

I first met Dr Thompson on a rainy day in Edinburgh towards the end of my training at Moray house. We talked about everything under the sun except my application for a job at Madras. Every time I tried to steer the conversation in that direction he would deftly change the subject. As we parted, he said, "Nice meeting you, I'll see you in September then," and strode off.<sup>1</sup>

I arrived at Madras College in 1969, and was deployed in the recently-opened<sup>2</sup> Kilrymont Road building. The English Department there was under the command of J. D. Wallace, who was Depute Principal Teacher, but, despite that title, actually had complete autonomy. The Principal Teacher, Sandy McLees, was stationed in South Street and as far as I can remember he was never required to enter the Kilrymont building.

J. D. had taught at the old Burgh School in Abbey Walk, and one of his initiatives in his new establishment was the institution of the *Abbey Times*<sup>3</sup> This was a weekly news sheet, normally consisting of two A4 sheets printed front and back, and then stapled together. It was produced on an old turn-the-handle Gestetner duplicator which resided permanently in room 206 where all of his classes took an active role in the production process. Every week, teams of reporters would scour the school searching out news Any stray pupils found wandering the corridors would usually justify themselves by claiming that they were "doing the *Abbey Times*." Notice boards would be carefully



inspected, and their content duly copied down. The P. E. department would be visited, and the results of matches and dates of sporting fixtures were collected. Anything at all that might be considered newsworthy was assembled. In the library there was the 'Abbey Times Box' in which pupils could post letters for publication in the next issue, or make proposals for features. Apart from the letters there were usually some sweetie papers,

and the occasional unprintable suggestion.

Anonymous postings were automatically disqualified.



As the stories and letters came in, classes were put to work producing hand-written copy. This was done by individuals or by groups, and the finished material was assembled for typing. This was usually done by J. D. himself on the flimsy Gestetner stencil sheets used for the purpose.

Occasionally there were pupils to whom this task could be entrusted, though the pink correction

fluid was frequently in evidence. The finished stencil could be read and checked using a special box - basically a glass plate with a light behind it - and then the sheets could be printed.

The format in these days was not very elaborate. There was a supply of page one header sheets with the *Abbey Times* logo that had been made in advance using a special stencil, and stockpiled. Typing on the page one stencil had to be adjusted to take this format into account. Columns and headlines could be done using plastic stencils and a special tool designed for the purpose, though this took some skill, as the stencil was prone to tearing. A small team operated the Gestetner. There was one pupil to turn the handle. This was a skilled job. If the handle was turned too quickly the stencil could tear, which was a disaster as it meant that another one had to be typed out. Too slowly and the print could

smudge. Another pupil kept an eye on the print quality and stood ready to press the button that fed extra ink into the

# ABBNEY TIMES

roller. Another was on the alert for paper jams and checking that the machine hadn't sent through blank sheets.

When page one was printed, the page two stencil was put on the machine, and the process began again. Woe betide the production team that inserted the paper the wrong way into the feeder tray so that page two emerged upside down. Eventually there were two neat piles of printed pages ready for the stapling teams to spring into action. The completed copies were made up into bundles of ten. This took place on 'Abbey Times Day'.

This was determined each session by the necessity for J. D. to have a double period at the end of the day, during which time the class in question could go through the final stages of production and distribution. Teams of pupils were mobilised to go around the school, visiting each class and selling the latest edition. Each team had a clipboard on which was entered the number of copies they started out with and a tally of the number

of copies sold, and this could be reconciled with the amount of money taken. The staff room and the offices were not missed out. Even the sick room was checked, Each copy cost 1p and sales were good - almost everybody bought one. The money was put aside to purchase stocks of paper, staples and tubes of black ink. Any surplus was put in a savings account at the Trustee Savings Bank in Church Street.

J. D. became an Assistant Rector,<sup>4</sup> and in recognition of his new duties his teaching load was substantially reduced. This meant that he could no longer be responsible for the *Abbey Times*. His successor, Mr Gouriay, was disinclined to take on the work, and soon moved on, so it fell to my lot to take over. When I became Depute Principal, I was keen for the *Abbey Times* to keep going, but I was concerned that the J. D. way of doing

things interfered too much with class teaching. He argued that it taught a variety of valuable skills, which is true enough in a way, but there was still a curriculum to get through.



The solution was a small but highly motivated *Abbey Times* team of pupil volunteers, who met with me at lunchtimes and did the work of collecting the raw data.<sup>5</sup> I took over the job of correcting copy and typing. I managed to acquire a duplicator with an electric motor, which made things much easier. The team members soon became adept at using it. The publication retained its old format, and its tone was much the same, but as time went by there were technical innovations. The first of these was the acquisition of a surplus electric typewriter, which made the production of stencils much easier. The auxiliary office had a scanner that could produce a Gestetner-ready stencil from copy that incorporated photographs. The quality was not wonderful, but it was a distinct improvement. The advent of the BBC computer, with its dot-matrix printer, seemed to signal the ultimate in technological wizardry. Its Edword programme<sup>6</sup> offered a choice of fonts, a choice of font size, the options of bold, italic and underline, the ability to cut and paste, and to justify text. It seemed amazing at the time, but then came the Apple Mac, and programmes like Adobe Pagemaker. This enabled Madras College to produce

camera-ready copy of its first Prospectus in-house, though I remember that at the time Mr Pardoe and I were the only people in the school who knew how to navigate Pagemaker.

# Abbey Times

The advent of Bob Edgar as Principal Teacher brought about some long-overdue changes. He determined that the days of staff being based solely in one building had to come to an end. Unlike J. D, who had exercised autocratic control in Kilrymont, I became Bob's Depute in reality rather than just in name, and immediately found myself actively involved in the administration of the whole department - mostly in Kilrymont, it is true, but with teaching responsibilities in both buildings. When Standard Grade<sup>7</sup> came in, I was made responsible for its phased implementation. We planned timetables together, and collaborated on requisitions. All of this was welcome and necessary but it meant that I had to move around quite a lot, so I had less time at my disposal to meet up with my team.

Then Bob became an Assistant Rector and I became Principal Teacher in his place and that was that. There was simply no time to prepare a weekly newspaper, because I had far too much to do. Besides, my stalwart team had moved on, and there were no obvious candidates to carry on their work. The combination of Pagemaker and the new generation of photocopiers was making the production of documents much quicker and easier, but the concept of the *Abbey Times* had probably had its day. Even its name was an anachronism, for nobody knew what it referred to.

So Tennyson was right - *The old order changeth*. Was it worth doing? Yes. As an archive the old copies are valuable. Many pupils benefited from taking part. There were several of them who were not particularly academic, but still felt a great sense of pride and achievement when they held a copy of the *Abbey Times* that they had helped to produce. J. D. was right - it did introduce pupils to useful skills that they might not otherwise have acquired, not least the awareness of how much hard work goes into the production of a couple of pages that could be read in a few minutes. In the days before the Madras College Daily Sheet was instituted it was a valuable way of disseminating information throughout the school. The letter column did provide a forum for pupil opinion. *Non, je ne regrette rien.*

- <sup>1</sup> "What a man he was! I remember that when I was going to Kirkcaldy to be interviewed for the Depute Principal post he took me to one side and said, "Andrew, a word of advice. If you are asked a question, keep your bloody mouth shut. Think about it. Take your time. Let them wait, and only answer when you are good and ready." Good advice!
  - <sup>2</sup> 1967
  - <sup>3</sup> It is possible that he had already produced the *Abbey Times* during his time at the Burgh School, but I can't confirm that. I certainly never saw any copies.
  - <sup>4</sup> He went on to become Rector of Grangemouth Middle School
  - <sup>5</sup> I remember in particular Brian Laing. He was born badly disfigured and was not much of a scholar, but he had unbounded enthusiasm, and would cheerfully undertake any task he was given to do. I was very sad to hear that he died when only a very young man.
  - <sup>6</sup> I remember I produced a little booklet for staff use entitled *Easy Edward*. This was at a time when people were generally not used to computers. The Business Studies Department were cross with me, because they thought I was trespassing into their territory, but I finally persuaded them that I regarded keyboard skills as their sole preserve, and I just wanted to help *staff* understand what the computer programme could do.
  - <sup>7</sup> Just before I retired there was a discussion involving Principal Teachers and the Depute Rector about forthcoming changes to Standard Grade which might involve a change of name, just as Revised Higher had become Higher Still. My helpful suggestion of 'Standard Still' provoked merriment among *my* colleagues, but for some reason was not well received by the Depute Rector.
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## Encounters with the Burgh School - Mr Donald Macgregor (1964-7)

I looked recently through some old Madras College magazines dating back to 1905 and extending to 1933. In the later magazines some names cropped up of people I knew as colleagues, albeit from the standpoint of a very young and inexperienced teacher. For example Charles R Anderson appears as a pupil, student at St Andrews, and of course later as a teacher of Classics. Dr John MacDonald ("Dr Jock") was appointed to the mathematics staff in 1928-9 and presided over that department until the arrival of Lindsay Hodge. And so on.

In the autumn term of 1964-5, my second year as a French and German teacher under Ian M Hendry, I was timetabled to be the first person from South Street to teach the top class (Class 4) in the Burgh School. This was preparatory to the hoped-for coalescence of the more traditionally academic Madras College in South Street and the junior secondary school in Abbey Walk, which has recently been acquired for use by the University for its accounts department. The joining together of the two schools, which previous to that had more or less ignored each other except for fights between some of the pupils (Snobs versus Yobs), was greeted with suspicion by both sides, especially staff in the Burgh, who felt they were being taken over and resented the feeling of being patronised. That came over particularly strongly when heads of South Street departments came 'down' to introduce themselves to their counterparts. The latter of course feared losing control over their small empires.

The changes had been decreed by Fife County Council Education Committee, whose chairman, a little man called Cllr Devlin, had addressed the Madras staff (and presumably the Burgh staff also) in the South Street Library, a meeting at which I was present. He made much of the plans for 'comprehensivation', which I suspect most people heard in gloomy silence. Enthusiasm was unquestionably muted, though the Rector, John Thompson, and the headmaster of the Burgh, Alexander Inglis, made every effort to embrace the plans as was their duty.

One sunny August or September morning I thus made my way to the Burgh, walking along Queen's Terrace and down Abbey Walk to a large 'temporary' hut just inside the wall – the Cosmos Centre, opened by Princess Anne and given its name by one of my first Burgh pupils, Christine Craig, who won a naming competition, stands there at present. This was the classroom of Miss Wilhelmina Brace, an elderly and imposing lady who proved to be friendly to me and protective of her class 4 pupils, quite a few of whom were very eager to learn some French. Before embarking on teaching I was shown into Mr Inglis's office where he made some, no doubt, encouraging remarks. Mr Inglis, or 'Auld Eck' as he was known to some, was, I think, a native of Auchtertool and had met his wife at 'the berries' near Blairgowrie. 'I just parted the bushes – and there she was!' he told me on a much later occasion. Their daughter Anne was coincidentally in my S4 German class at South Street. He was a kindly man, interested in education generally and particularly in handwriting, having published at least one book on the subject. His own subject had been mathematics. He was one of the few teachers at the Burgh to wear a gown, though that was standard at South Street.

I was given a brief tour of the school, including the staffroom. In those days it was possible in free periods to sit around talking and drinking tea or coffee in the smoke-filled atmosphere. I met over the weeks and months most of the staff, most of whom were friendly – seeing that French was a new subject there – but took relatively little interest in me as I was a beginner and only came there one period a day. My memory is that Tim Grove joined me the next year having taught previously in the South of England and in Dundee. We had done our Dip Ed and teaching qualification together in that city.

I can't remember what course book we used, but it was bright orange and one intended for beginners who were not considered too academic. I tried to brighten the lessons up by getting the pupils to sing songs and play language games and certainly some of the more interested ones (especially the girls) did well in their studies. I should say that Auld Eck nourished the curious opinion that French, a 'soft' language, was more appropriate for girls and German for the Herrenvolk.

Among the teachers some stand out, mainly because I talked to them or listened to them in the staffroom. Most moved 'up' to the new Kilrymont building in 1967, though its official opening was in 1968 through Professor JWL Adams, the Bell Professor of Education at St Andrews (Queen's, Dundee), whose post bore the condition that he had to talk about the Madras system, a matter he disposed of in about three minutes. Kilrymont had been designed as a junior secondary and was intended to hold rather fewer than the number of pupils who would later attend it.

Jim Noble was one of the Maths teachers – he was a Bailie in St Monans and his coffee mug was known to his colleagues as 'the Bailie's Bowl' (pronounced bowel). The head of department was Hamish Cook, a quiet gentleman who was very effective. Bill McKirdy was one of the scientists, and George Kinghorn and Bill McGavin were technical teachers. I saw little of them, but they demonstrated a certain cynicism about modern education – as indeed did several others. Angus Scott was in charge of art, Bob Simpson of history, and David Wallace, a keen exponent of chess and a strict disciplinarian, of English. Mr and Mrs Auchterlonie were maths teachers nearing retirement. Tom Roche, who lived nearby in Dauphin Cottage, taught a mixture of things, and I think his wife Anne taught music. A PoW of the Japanese, he had suffered badly in the war and was a gentle man, who used to help the weaker pupils with very great patience. ('The capital of France is....?...Pa...? Pa-ris, well done.')

Keith Neilson – a rugby enthusiast, and Madras sports champion in 1947 – was head of PE, and that department became the most integrated, as he and Tom and Lena Croll (South St) were all pretty friendly. A keen Scottish Nationalist, Jim McKenzie, was another technical teacher.

As I had to get back to my next class in South Street, I tended not to linger. I felt the atmosphere in the Burgh staffroom rather oppressive in contrast to South Street. After these first pupils left school or went on to higher education – as a few of them did – I remained in contact, and still am on friendly terms with a few even now, 47 years later.

Dr Thompson's policy was to avoid upsetting the Burgh staff as far as he could, and when the moment came to transfer everything to Kilrymont he left as much as he could for Alex Inglis to deal with, although of course we had occasional staff or departmental

meetings. I think it was mistaken to adopt the practice of selecting 'high-fliers' to move up (from Kilrymont) to South Street in S3, as this perpetuated division. It took quite a few years before the hostility finally abated, and for some people it never has – particularly former pupils of the Burgh.

The Burgh had its own sports teams, prefects etc, of course, and its own uniform, also dark blue but with a different badge. There was a school 'newspaper', the cyclostyled Abbey Times (1d), which was edited by David Wallace and survived the transfer to Kilrymont under the same name but went up to 2d. It appeared on a Friday.

### **Rivalries and Tensions**

Inevitably, rivalries and tensions existed between the two establishments. When groups of pupils encountered each other in the street on the way to and from school, it was traditional for shouts to be exchanged. Burgh School pupils would shout "Madras Cuddies" at their opposite numbers. The standard reply to this from the Madras side was "Burgh Bugs wi' Leather Lugs".

Tensions also occurred at staff level, particularly as the amalgamation of the two schools drew near. There is a well-authenticated account of a Madras Principal Teacher being denied admission to the Burgh School when he went to spend time there to meet and get to know the staff in the department for which he would soon become responsible.

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### **Memories of the Burgh School - Dr Peter Murray (1960)**

The "Quali" consisted of two Intelligence Tests at 10+ and at 11+, then a formal examination held over two mornings. No-one ever failed the "Quali". The word "failed" was simply not used. Officially, you were said to have passed at a certain grade, but your secondary placement depended on how high that grade was. It was a divisive system and pupils, and their aspirational parents, were often unhappy. After one year at the Burgh, I was allowed to move to Madras, but I had to repeat S1 there. It was a grudging admission that a mistake had been made, but it put me a year behind my Primary School contemporaries.

The teaching at the Burgh School was very good. I did well in class and became academic. Much of this was due to Mr Wallace, who was the Principal Teacher of English and the Depute Head. He identified gaps in my knowledge and plugged them. He showed me that my inability to answer questions correctly was often because I had not understood the question properly.

Uniform was the traditional blazer and tie and either long or short trousers. I remember that Maths classes, which took place in huts, were noisy and discipline was difficult. We had to go to the Fisher School for our Art classes. Technical Subjects were compulsory and we did Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing in huts at the back. There was a Department of Special Education in a separate house connected to the main school building, although it had a fenced-off play area.

Mr Neilson was in charge of PE and Rugby. PE lessons were held in what is now the Cosmos Centre. The playing fields were at Kilrymont Road. The changing rooms were a hut with minimum facilities – just a seat and a hook. Games strips were yellow. The Burgh School played equivalent schools in Fife and Dundee - e.g. Stobswell. The usual game was rugby. Football was also played and Ronnie Laing went on to become a professional footballer. In summer there was a choice between cricket and athletics. Mr Inglis, the Head Teacher, was a frightening figure.

Although I went with great trepidation, I have happy memories of the Burgh.

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## Headmasters



Edward King, James Doggart and  
Robert Anderson  
School Sports 1926

From its foundation in 1890 until its amalgamation with Madras in 1964/67, the Burgh School had five Headmasters. They were:-

Mr Edward King	1890 – 1922
Mr James Doggart	1922 – 1926
Mr Robert Anderson	1926 – 1934
Mr Hugh Chalmers	1934 – 1956
Mr Alexander Inglis	1956 – 1964

In October 1955 Mr Chalmers suddenly died and Mr Norman Macleod, Deputy Headmaster, was acting Headmaster until Alex Inglis took up the appointment of Headmaster.

Following the Amalgamation, Mr Inglis became Depute Rector of Madras College and remained in that post until his retirement in 1974.





James Doggart



Robert Anderson



Alexander Inglis



Hugh Chalmers



Norman Macleod

**Staff**

**1913, 1914, 1915**

- Headmaster Edward King, M.A.
- James Y Hunter, M.A.
- William R Bett
- George C Miller
- Miss Cowie
- Miss Grieve
- Miss Cowieson
- Miss Miller
- Miss Johnston
- Miss E E McLeod
- Miss A F McLeod
- Miss B M Simpson
- Miss McCrostie

**1916**

- Headmaster Edward King, M.A.
- James Y Hunter, M.A.
- Harry Marr
- Miss Cowie
- Miss Grieve
- Miss Cowieson
- Miss Miller
- Miss Johnston
- Miss E E McLeod
- Miss A F McLeod
- Miss B M Simpson
- Miss Crozier
- Miss Robb
- Miss Winton

## **Memories of the Burgh School - Mrs Aileen Macleod**

Mr Norman MacLeod came to St Andrews in October 1955 to take up his appointment as Headmaster of Langlands Primary School. As the new school was not yet ready, he was temporarily assigned to cover the vacancy at the Burgh School created by the retiral of Mr MacAulay, the Depute Headmaster.

At that time many schools had a house, either within the school grounds or nearby, to provide accommodation for the Headmaster and sometimes also for the the Depute Headmaster. The house for the Burgh School was Abbey Villa. It was a large house and was subdivided into three. The half of the house on the side furthest from the school was occupied by the Headmaster. The back part of the house on the other side was for the Janitor and his family. The rooms to the front were for the Depute Headmaster. Mr MacLeod, his wife Aileen and young daughter moved in over the weekend. On the Sunday morning he was horrified to learn that Mr Chalmers, the Headmaster, had died suddenly. When Mr MacLeod took up his duties on the Monday, he found that he was not just replacing Mr MacAulay, but he had to take on the role of Acting Headmaster. This situation continued for several months until Mr Inglis was appointed Headmaster and Mr MacLeod returned to his original post at Langlands. Mr Inglis moved in to Abbey Villa occupying the Headmaster's accommodation; the Macleod family continued to occupy their accommodation in Abbey Villa until 1962.

Teachers who were working at the Burgh School included:

Tom Roche, Miss Mark, Mr & Mrs Auchterlonie, Arthur Edward, Donald Chisholm, Miss Elizabeth Meldrum, George Kinghorn, Miss Brace, Keith Neilson, Miss Jean Forrest, Beth Arbuckle

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### **Miss Elizabeth Bushnell**

### **A Student Teacher's Impression (1943)**

I was never a pupil there, but after I graduated in 1943, I embarked on the course for the Diploma in Education at St Andrews University. This entailed a mixture of lectures in the University, two days a week in Dundee at what was then called Dundee Teachers' Training College and teaching practice in a number of schools: much of this time was mainly sitting at the back of the class "observing the lesson". For some of the latter I was assigned to the Burgh School in Abbey Walk. The Headmaster's House was the large building nearby (now turned into flats) and the Headmaster was Mr Chalmers, but I seldom saw him, of course. I have no idea how long I was there – not more than one term, I imagine, maybe less – one day a week.

At that time it was not Madras College Junior High School but a separate school, although pupils would have no choice as to which school they attended. Under the education system of the time that depended on mental ability as shown in examination. Those pupils who passed the "11 Plus", which in Scotland was known as the "Qualifying Examination", went on to Madras College, whereas those who failed went to the Burgh School and left at what was then the official leaving age of 14.

Although not quite the Victorian or Edwardian era, the 1930s and 40s maintained strict standards of discipline – with punishments! My memory of that episode at the Burgh School was that there was not one lesson I attended in which the strap was not used, at

least once. That may be an exaggeration, but it is the memory left to me. The strap (like a short, wide leather belt) was used in Scotland rather than the cane for a sharp, stinging blow on an outstretched hand). I never "took a lesson" at the Burgh School, nor do I remember any other student doing so – possibly we were only sent there to observe what might be in store for us. I am sure this was just one example of the educational system of the time, prevailing in all state schools. It must have made life much easier for both teachers and pupils in schools like Madras and such-like grammar schools. I never remember any discipline problems there in either lessons I "observed" or ones I "took". As a result, I came away with a conviction which has stayed with me ever since about the futility of trying to interest and therefore teach academic subjects to those pupils whose ability lies rather on the practical side; after all I would have failed dismally as a bricklayer, carpenter or seamstress, as I am sure would about 75% of Arts graduates! I do remember, though, that there was some leniency at that time, in that if an employer was willing to employ a child over the age of twelve and the parents were so desirous this could in some cases become legal. I am thinking of one specific case. Our home help and her husband had a 13 year old daughter, a pleasant, quiet child, anxious for a job where she could be useful and earn a little money. My late father, who was University Librarian, got special permission to employ her as a Junior Assistant and I am sure he found her very useful because at that time he was losing staff. They were being called up to the forces, as it was not a reserved occupation unlike teaching.

Why, oh why not teach a universal syllabus up to the age of ten or twelve and then give those whose gifts are in practical directions the opportunity to achieve something worthwhile in those areas where their interests lie!

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Thomas Morrison  
Teacher, left 1932



Mel & Harriet Showd  
Exchange teachers  
from St Louis in  
1958/59



Hay Gillespie  
School Janitor  
Retired 1913



Beth Arbuckle      Jean Forrest      Jenny Inglis  
Teacher              Teacher              Wife of Mr Inglis

**Pupils**



Douglas Wills  
Sports Champion  
1932



A Thom  
Sports Champion  
1938



Agnes Gourlay  
Dux 1938



Robert Scott  
Dux 1938



Duxes 1934-35  
Malcolm Burness and Katherine Burns



Duxes 1935-36  
Isabel Hay and Norman Niven



L Henderson  
leading girl in sports

Jean Gerrard  
dux girl

J Irvine  
sports champion

Gosman Scott  
dux boy



1919

Left - Edward King (Headmaster)

Centre - Hay Gillespie (Janitor)



Date unknown



Date unknown



1949



1951



1963



1964



JHS Prefects 1964





JHS Prefects 1964-65



Class 1F circa 1965



Rugby Junior High  
1st XV 1965



Rugby 1963-64



Rugby XV 1966-67



Rugby 1st Team 1966



Soccer Junior High 1963-64



Football Junior High 1965



Burgh School Hockey 1963-64



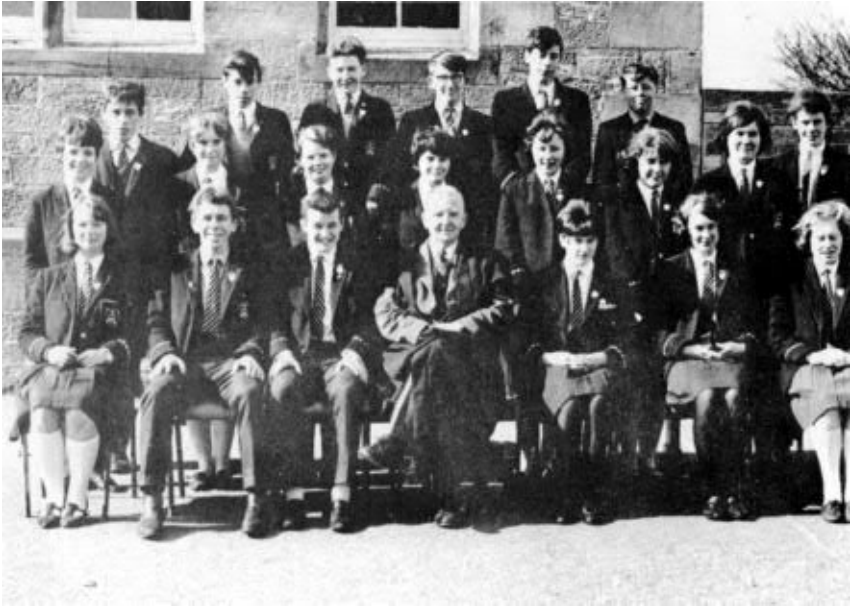
Burgh School Hockey 1965



Junior High Hockey 1965



Burgh School Hockey 1965-66



JHS Prefects 1966



The Burch School, St. Andrews

Geo. L. Fleming, 44 South Street, St. Andrews.

Back of the school  
Note the playground division  
into boys and girls



Back of the school 2011