



BALLYCLARE SECONDARY SCHOOL 1961 — 1986



THE SILVER JUBILEE MAGAZINE

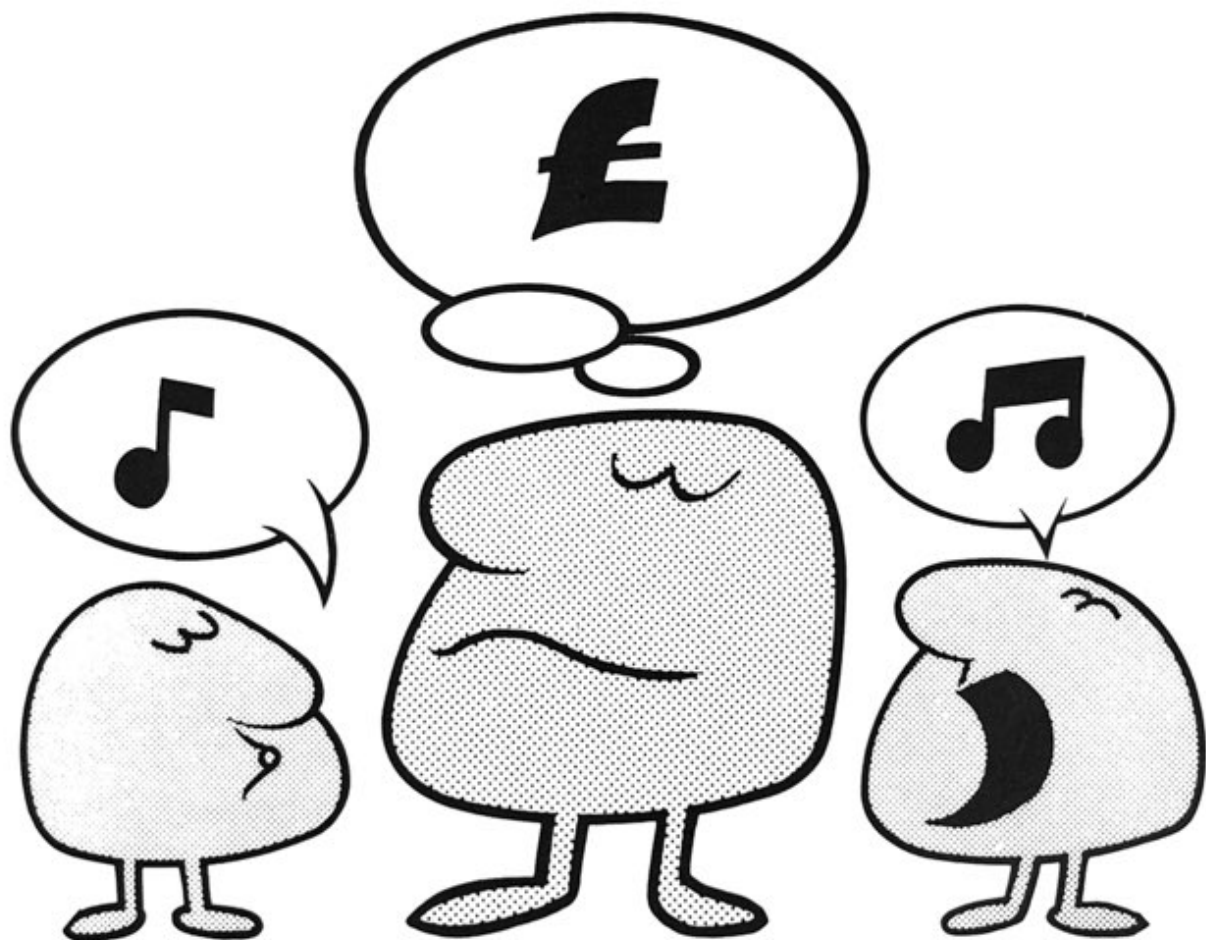
A NEWSBEAT PUBLICATION

sound judgement.

Open an Account with the

T S B

“it's the sensible
place for your notes”



T S B

NORTHERN IRELAND

FOREWARD

by Mr. McCrea



It gives me great pleasure as Headmaster of Ballyclare Secondary School to write the foreword to this Silver Jubilee issue of the school magazine. Congratulations to all those staff, past and present, pupils and former pupils and, of course, parents who have made a contribution to this excellent publication.

Birthdays are events we all experience. When young, we can't wait until the next one. When we are a little older, perhaps wiser, we wish time would slow down. Regardless of whatever stage of life we are presently enjoying, or enduring, a birthday gives us an opportunity to reflect on past experiences, enjoy the celebration of our present age and renew our commitment to all that is best in human endeavours. The Silver Jubilee of our school also affords the whole school community - staff, pupils and parents, past and present - an opportunity for a time of remembering, rejoicing and renewal.

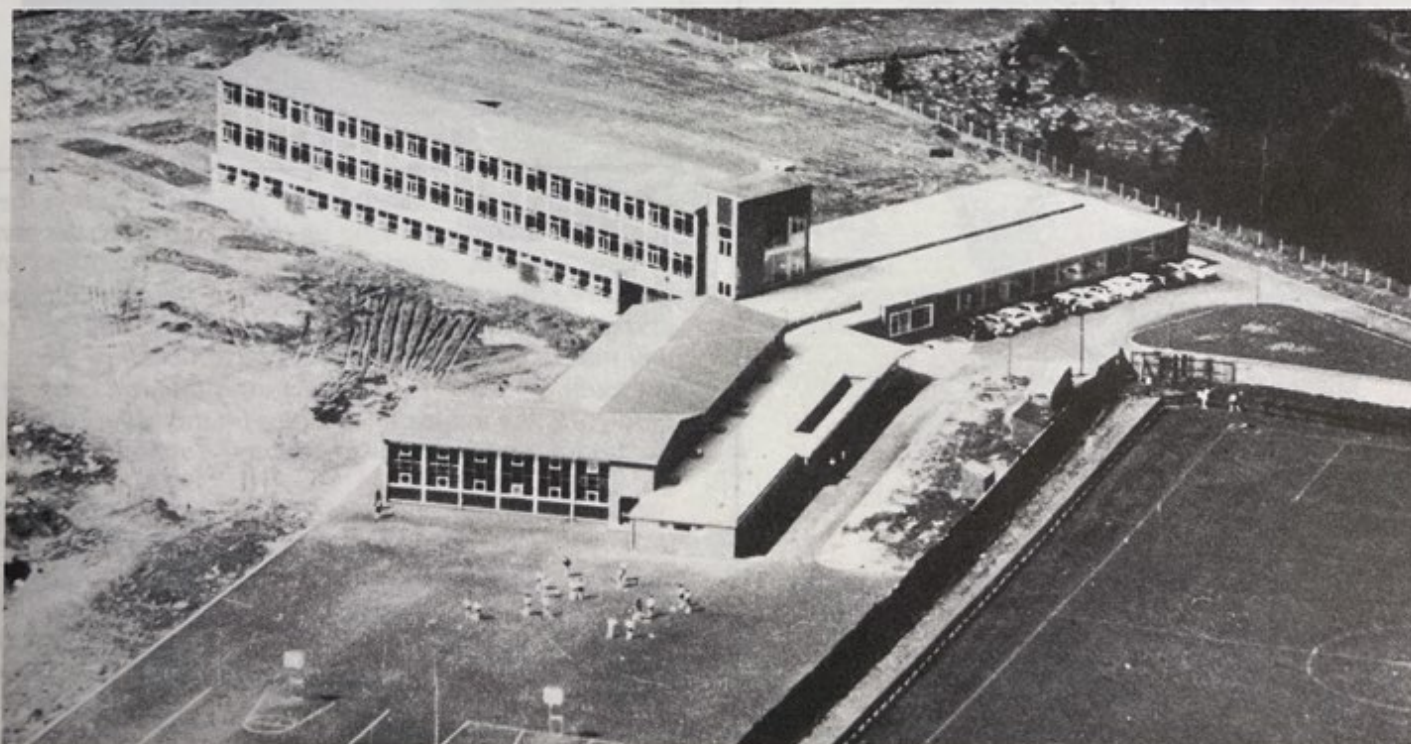
As you read through this magazine, I am sure many happy memories will be recalled, old acquaintances recognised and many a lesson in Ballyclare Secondary remembered. The school has a tremendous history of human achievement in very many fields. It is right that we should join in remembering former pupils, teachers and parents, who have made such valuable contributions to the school in its first twenty-five years. Particularly, we should recall the vision of a school committed to all its pupils, interested in all the various needs of its members

and built on the family principles of sharing and caring. These were, and are, the truly great values of our school's first and formative Head, Mr. W. Stirling. Ballyclare owes so much to his unique efforts in seeking the best educational opportunities for all its citizens.

This publication is just one of the many projects planned by the school community at this time of celebration. Present staff and pupils will be enjoying quite a number of events throughout this school year, and I hope the Silver Jubilee magazine will be one among many mementoes of a very happy and most enjoyable time for all.

As we look to the future, both nationally and from an individual point of view, we might be concerned about what it will unveil. With the example, however, of the commitment and the qualities of the very many people who have constituted our school community during the past twenty-five years, I am confident that today's, and indeed tomorrow's, school, with equal endeavour and enthusiasm, can and will go on to greater things.

Yes, recall the vision and the memories of a good school. By all means enjoy the celebration of the school's 25th birthday. Let us, however, renew our commitment to each other, pupil, parent and teacher, and to the ideals that seek only the best for every child. They are all our futures.



Ballyclare Secondary School shortly after it was opened in 1961.



EDITORIAL

by Mr. Todd

Long, long ago, in the days even before the Beatles were invented, a new school was built in Ballyclare. A quarter of a century on, the Beatles having come and gone, the school still flourishes. This publication, dear reader, tells its story. The tone of the text may, on occasion, seem overtly self-congratulatory. For this no apologies are offered, since what has been achieved by the school in its twenty-five years has far outdistanced the hopes of its founding fathers.

I must acknowledge with thanks the assistance given me in producing this Silver Jubilee magazine by many former and current pupils and members of staff. It may be a cliché to say so, but without their help, it would not have been possible to compile the story of Ballyclare Secondary School. In particular, I am grateful to the following for giving so freely of their time: Joan Smith, Miriam Ferguson and Joan McDowell, who provided me with a large selection of photographs; Colin Manson, who took several photographs specially for this publication; the Newtownabbey Times and Newtownabbey Guardian for

design, and the other Heads of Department, especially Ruth Davison, George Lyons and Carolyn Roberts; Mr. Stirling, who allowed many people to pick his brains, as did David Metcalfe, Mervyn Higginson and Henrietta Cameron; John Lennon, to the accompaniment of whose music much of the text was written late into the night; and Frank Bennett, Mrs. E. D. Ferguson and Mrs. M. Roberts. The best sources of material were the eighty-eight editions of Newsbeat, the school newspaper. The foresight of its founder in recognising the need for a record of school life is to be commended. Newsbeat's record of never spelling a name incorrectly is maintained in this magazine (!?!). Regretfully, it has not been possible to include some material which, because of strict deadlines, arrived too late for publication.



Mr. Manson



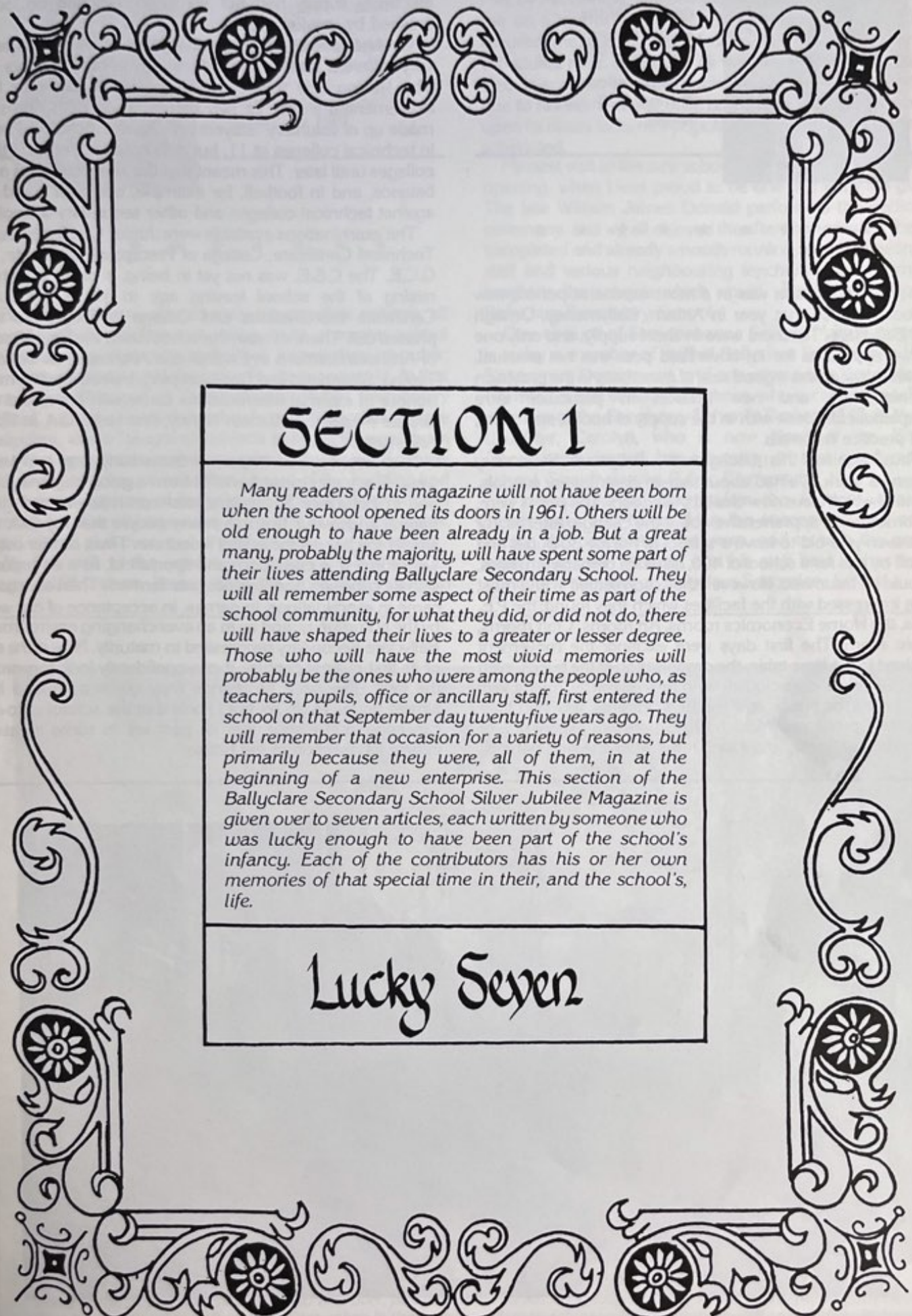
Miss Whittock and Mr. Blair

permission to reproduce some photographs originally published in those newspapers; Harry Blair, who persuaded advertisers to part with their money; Anne Whittock for her contributions to various sections of the magazine, but particularly the one on sport; Marjorie Hamilton, whose typing is infinitely better than mine; Mary Love, who worked on much of the art and graphic

It may be, gentle reader, that you are scanning these lines after casually picking up the magazine in the home of your parents, children, auntie or osteopath. If that should be the case, stop reading immediately, put it down and go out and buy a copy of your own. By doing so, you will not only be acquiring a grand souvenir of a special occasion, you will also be ensuring that the exercise of producing the magazine will be a financial success. Why not buy a friend one for Christmas? You know it makes sense!

It is something of a coincidence that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school's opening should fall at a time when pressure for radical reform in education is taking concrete form. For those who have served the school since "the good, old days", things, it may truly be said, will never be the same again. Thus, as the school enters a new era, it seems appropriate that a little time be taken to recall and celebrate the achievements of its past. Get the hankie out and read on.

N.T. August 1986



SECTION 1

Many readers of this magazine will not have been born when the school opened its doors in 1961. Others will be old enough to have been already in a job. But a great many, probably the majority, will have spent some part of their lives attending Ballyclare Secondary School. They will all remember some aspect of their time as part of the school community, for what they did, or did not do, there will have shaped their lives to a greater or lesser degree. Those who will have the most vivid memories will probably be the ones who were among the people who, as teachers, pupils, office or ancillary staff, first entered the school on that September day twenty-five years ago. They will remember that occasion for a variety of reasons, but primarily because they were, all of them, in at the beginning of a new enterprise. This section of the Ballyclare Secondary School Silver Jubilee Magazine is given over to seven articles, each written by someone who was lucky enough to have been part of the school's infancy. Each of the contributors has his or her own memories of that special time in their, and the school's, life.

Lucky Seven



*Mr. Stirling was
Principal of the
school between
1961 and 1985.*

*Here he reflects
on how it all
began.*



In 1961 education was in a most expansive period; new schools opened that year in Antrim, Ballymoney, Omagh and Ballyclare. Teachers were in short supply, and only one or two applicants for an advertised post was not unusual. However, there was a good deal of generosity in the provision of resources, and new schools in particular were sympathetically dealt with in the supply of books, stationery, and practice materials.

Thus, against this background, Ballyclare Secondary began its work. We had about sixteen contributory schools, some of which have now closed their doors. The pupils were, in some cases, apprehensive about the change. After all, for an eleven-year-old to leave a school of maybe 30 pupils and set off by bus for a school of 400, distance perhaps ten miles, it could be traumatic. However, they soon settled in and most were impressed with the facilities which they found: the P.E. Halls, the Home Economics rooms, Art rooms, Craft rooms, Music room. The first days were exciting; the movement involved in the time-table, the organisation of the buses, even a degree of self-consciousness in new uniforms, meant very busy times for pupils and teachers. Parents, too, had their fears and problems. Most had no personal experience of secondary schools, and I well remember the first parents'

meeting at the end of August, the week before the school opened to pupils. The Hall was full of interested parents, and before questions were over, the darkness set in. The electricity supply had not yet been switched on, so we finished by candlelight!

Changes take place so gradually that it is easy to forget the very different situation in education twenty-five years ago. The leaving age was 15, and even that had only been implemented a year or two before. Thus Fifth Form was made up of voluntary "stayers on". As well, boys could enrol in technical colleges at 11, but girls could not enrol in these colleges until later. This meant that the enrolment was out of balance, and in football, for example, our boys could play against technical colleges and other secondary schools.

The examinations available were Junior Certificate, Junior Technical Certificate, College of Preceptors Certificate, and G.C.E. The C.S.E. was not yet in being. It came in with the raising of the school leaving age to 16 as the Junior Certificate examinations and College of Preceptors were phased out. Then, as now, the school used the Royal Society of Arts examinations in English and Arithmetic as well as in Typing, Shorthand and Book-keeping. Indeed the first major honour in external examinations came with the award of a Bronze Medal to Elizabeth Kenny, first Head Girl, in R.S.A. Arithmetic.

I can now see how important those early days and weeks were. Every enterprise benefits from a good beginning. We had in Ballyclare Secondary total commitment and good natural endeavour from so many people that my task was simply to channel these vital resources. Thus, as friendships were formed in classroom and sportsfield, so a community with its cohesion and loyalties was formed. Then successes came in examinations, in games, in acceptance of our work by the community, and so in an ever-changing environment, Ballyclare Secondary progressed to maturity. Now at the end of its first quarter century, it can confidently look forward to the next. The pace of change may quicken, indeed it is almost bound to do so, but I know that the school of to-day can cope, and I hope that its past will in some measure inform its direction in the future.



Although the first pupils entered the school on 6th September 1961, the official opening didn't take place until 3rd October 1962. The ceremony was performed by J. H. Lindsay, M.B.E. Also pictured here is W. J. F. Donald, Chairman of the Antrim Education Committee (left), Mr. Stirling and Mrs. Doreen Lindsay.



Mrs. Margaret Roberts was Principal of Straidnahanna Public Elementary School, one of Ballyclare Secondary's "feeder" schools in 1961.



Before the advent of secondary intermediate schools, all primary school children not going on to grammar school education stayed at primary school, known then as public elementary school, until they were fourteen years old. At that time, I was Principal of Straidnahanna Public Elementary School, a small one-teacher school about four miles outside Ballyclare, where I taught all subjects to all pupils, aged from five years up to fourteen years — a very arduous job. So it was with a great feeling of relief that I heard of the building and subsequent opening of Ballyclare Secondary Intermediate School, for it would take away the pupils in my top classes, aged eleven and over, and, therefore, ease my work-load.

My first visit to the school was during the last week of August 1961 when, having filled the boot of my car with

English and Maths books, "Readers" and "Story Readers" — in fact all the books used by Sixth and Seventh Standards, my two senior classes — I arrived at the new school where I was met by Mr. Stirling, the newly-appointed Principal, who took me on a tour of the as yet unfinished building. Mr. Stirling assured me that he would open the new school on the scheduled date, in spite of all the plasterers, plumbers and electricians who were so much in evidence that day. And yes, due to his tremendous drive and enthusiasm, the school *did* open its doors to its new population of pupils and teachers as scheduled.

My next visit to the new school was on the day of the official opening, when I was proud to be one of the invited guests. The late William James Donald performed the dedication ceremony, and we all enjoyed the afternoon, viewing the now completed and already smooth-running school, meeting the staff and various neighbouring teachers who, like myself, taught in the schools which would, year by year, populate Ballyclare Secondary School.

One ex-pupil of Straidnahanna School, Mary Hutchinson, is today a member of staff of Ballyclare Secondary's Home Economics Department, and one other name that springs to my mind is that of Andrew Holmes, who excelled himself as a member of the Secondary School's Basketball Club. My own daughter, Carolyn, who is now Head of the English Department, started her education in that small country school, Straidnahanna Public Elementary.

I should like to congratulate the former Secondary Headmaster and his staff on the success of their school during the past twenty-five years, and to wish the present headmaster, Mr. McCrea, and his staff best wishes for the continued success of Ballyclare Secondary School.



Some of the pupils of eleven-years-old and over, pictured here in 1961, who were to move, all but two of them, to the new Secondary School in Ballyclare in September. In the back row Mary Hutchinson is fourth from the left and Andrew Holmes is second from the right.



Henrietta Cameron (nee Miller), now working in the Home Economics Department, was one of the first pupils to enter the school in 1961. Here she writes about her early experiences in Ballyclare Secondary.

My days as a pupil at Ballyclare County Secondary Intermediate School from 1961-1965 are ones I remember quite vividly. It was a new school and, as a pupil about to enter 1st Form, for some weeks before I had a mounting feeling of excitement and nervousness. Having left Ballylinney Primary School, which was a very small country school, the only girl among four boys, to have to go to this much bigger school with lots of new subjects was quite frightening. Through the summer months the people of Ballyclare were talking about the new school opening in September. What was of more interest to me was the letter I received telling me what class I would be in, and what colour the school uniform was going to be. I well remember going into Ballyclare to get my uniform. I was so excited, I couldn't wait till I got home to try it on again. There was quite a lot of time spent at home sewing badges and name-tags on to items of clothing.

Well, the big day arrived, and my friend Beryl Biggar, who had gone to Bruslee Primary School, and I set off down the Hillhead Road bright and early. How proud we were, all dressed up with blue burberries and grey berets. When we got to Ballyclare, there were lots of other children going up the street dressed in their blue uniforms. Many of them had an advantage over us, as most of them had been to Ballyclare Primary School and knew one another. Anyhow, Beryl and I stuck together down the front drive of the school and in through the front door like two timid mice, not knowing where to go or who to speak to. The only thing we did know

desks were filled with strange children. Then Mr. Astbury did a head-count and decided that we were all there. He introduced himself again, told us he was to be our Class Teacher and that he would be teaching us English and French. It wasn't long until a bell rang and we were out for a fifteen minute break. We went outside and walked around to see if there were any faces we knew, and to ask other people how they had got on in their classes. Back to Room 6 and we were given some books and our timetable. Mr. Astbury appointed a boy, Edwin Forsythe, and a girl, Susan Patterson, to be the Form Captains of the class. He told us the school rules. One always to be obeyed was that we must stand up when the Headmaster entered the room. Before the first day was over, we had a visit from Mr. Stirling, the soft-spoken Headmaster, who made everyone feel very relaxed.



The late Sidney Astbury, Henrietta Miller's first Class Teacher. Mr. Astbury was Head of English from 1961 until 1985. His contribution to the work of that Department is detailed in Section 4 of the magazine.

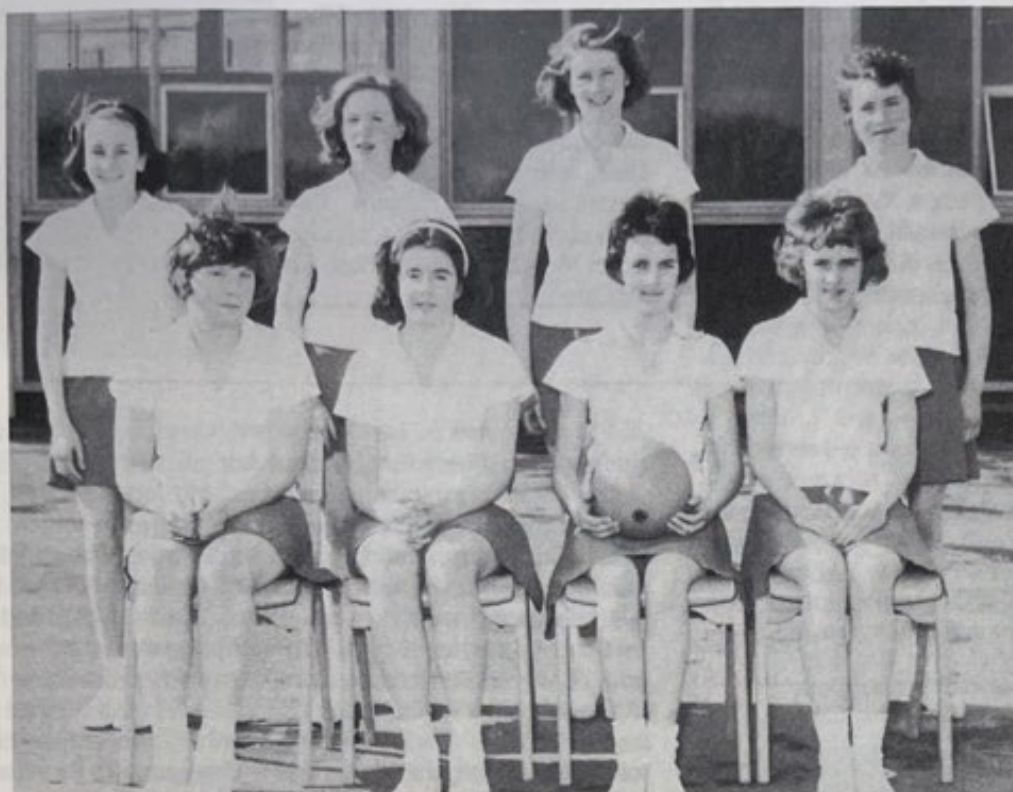


Henrietta's best friend, Beryl Biggar (left), and Edwin Forsythe, the Form Captain of Henrietta's class, 1A.

was that we were both to be in the same class, 1A. In the entrance hall there was a large blackboard with the classes and their room numbers on it. Not that it really helped, for we didn't know where Room 6 was anyway. A lot of teachers were hurrying about in black cloaks. One came over and told us where to go. On arriving at Room 6, we met a very pleasant gentleman, standing smiling at the door. He showed us in, asked our names, ticked them off on a piece of paper and told us that he was Mr. Astbury. We just sat down in the first row of empty desks. Within ten to fifteen minutes the other

The next day followed the same pattern as the first, but on the third day we began life as it would continue, changing classes and moving on the bell. Each teacher introduced himself or herself when we arrived — Mr. Mayne for Maths., Mr. Ward for Social Studies, Mr. McClelland for Science, Miss Lusk for Music, Mrs. Carson Art, Miss Dickson P.E., and Mrs. Montgomery for Domestic Science.

At the beginning the Domestic Science rooms weren't finished, and I remember that Mrs. Montgomery took us for our first lessons with her in G.A.1. She told us about the things we would be doing and making in Domestic Science class, but before we started, we had to make our cookery aprons, which were white with a blue band at the top and bottom. In the top left corners we had to embroider our names in yellow thread. We also had to make hats. Each consisted of a blue band secured at the back with two rows of elastic, and "B.C.S.S." embroidered on the front.



Henrietta was keen on sport. Here she is shown with her friends on the 1963/64 Under 14 Netball team. The girls are (on the back row) J. Milligan, M. Herron, M. McCaw, C. Agnew, and on the front row A. Miskimond, C. Gowdy, Henrietta and Beryl Biggar.

Art classes were taken in Room 9, which was set out with tables and chairs. Each pupil had a drawing board on their table. I remember a favourite saying of Mr. McClelland, our Science teacher: "Pens and pencils down, eyes towards the front." If you didn't do this doubly quick, a piece of chalk flew past your ear! Miss Lusk doubted to hear a piece sing. She was very keen to get a choir started, so that it could sing at the official opening of the school.

The official opening didn't take place until a year after the school had actually opened. 3rd October 1962 was a memorable day. All the pupils were seated in the Assembly Hall, with the choir front right. This left the platform free for the guests. There were the headmasters and headmistresses of all the local primary schools, and representatives of their management committees as well. Two of Ballyclare Secondary's management committee who were there that day, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. McConnell, gave their names to the two original school houses. Pupils were divided equally into one or the other, and competition between them was fierce.

P.E. was a subject nearly everyone in my class enjoyed. I remember working on the beams and ropes, playing tennis, netball and hockey, taking part in athletics and dancing. Miss Dickson was an enthusiastic teacher and really worked us hard. Her successor, Miss Harbinson, introduced us to swimming, and all of us looked forward to Friday afternoons when we went to the Grove baths. I also remember how proud we all were of Mervyn Turkington when he was selected to play for the Northern Ireland Schoolboy International Football Team. On the night of the big game — I forget who they played — we went to cheer him on. As many girls as boys were on the supporters' bus.

The first school Sports Day was held at the harriers track on the Ballynure Road as we didn't have the facilities at the school. Everyone was determined to do well, and I think McConnell House came out best that day. That first summer term the girls wore checked gingham dresses, red for McConnell and yellow for Lindsay, and white ankle socks.

By the time we had got into our routine, Mr. Middleton started taking a group after school for violin lessons in his Science room. Perhaps the noise sounded sweeter at the other end of the corridor, but it was like nothing on earth at those practice sessions. He would keep shouting at us to put

more rosin on the bows. We went through tons of the stuff! If we played a wrong note, we would have to stop, adjust the bow — and put a drop more rosin on it. However, we mustn't have been too bad, for I remember playing the violin on the platform at morning assembly on more than one occasion. The school had a variety of instruments available in those days, including recorders and three melodicos. These were a kind of wind instrument with keys on them, and they were played by Beryl, Danny Craig and myself. We liked them much better than the violins! Miss Lusk also encouraged us to take an interest in classical music, and organised a bus trip every Friday night to the Ulster Hall in Belfast to hear the Ulster Orchestra. The first couple of evenings were quite good, but by the end of the season the numbers had been reduced to Miss Lusk's carfull. Miss Lusk had formed three choirs — Minors, Juniors and Seniors — and we looked forward to the music festivals at Carrickfergus, Ballymena, Larne and Ballyclare. We were always successful, and usually came home with a cup or a shield for our efforts.

In those early days the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was popular with many of the girls in my class, and there was a wide range of activities to choose from. The one I remember best was from the "Adventure" section, and we had to go on an expedition for the day. Five of us got to Larne on a bus, and then we started a twelve-mile journey on foot, which took us to Ballygally, over the hill to Cairncastle and back to Larne. We had to observe certain things on the way and gather leaves. Then a written report had to be done to get the award. One of the activities in the "Service" section was First Aid. We attended a course run by the British Red Cross Society. After six months the numbers who were still on the course had dwindled, and only five of us received the Bronze Award.

1A and 2A were the first two classes to be entered for the Junior Certificate examination in 1964, three years after we had entered the school. The subjects in which we were examined were English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, History, Art, Science, Domestic Science, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry. In these subjects pupils could get one of four results — fail, pass, pass with credit or pass with distinction. After Junior Certificate, which we sat as 3A, we automatically went into 5th Form, where you

could take Senior Certificate or a commercial course taught by Mr. Hunter and Mr. Platt. I took this course, which consisted of shorthand, typing and book-keeping. Also in 5th Form, some of us were made Prefects.

It wasn't all hard work and no play in those early years. I remember Miss McDowell organising a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. I think the idea was for us to learn about Shakespeare, but it was just a holiday to us. Mr. Astbury took us to see "Oliver" and "Henry V", both staged in the Arts Theatre in Belfast. In those days children didn't get going to many places outside Ballyclare, so these outings were a real

treat for us.

I can remember most of the pupils in my class of 1961. So if you're reading this, hello to Beryl Biggar, Hazel Reid, Christine Gowdy, Maureen Montgomery, Christine Crowe, Ann Colquhoun, Rosemary Bingham, Jessie Milligan, Eileen Laird, Jennifer Wilson, Norma Adams, Susie Adair, Eileen Blair, Wilma Blair and Jean Hicks. The boys were Edwin Forsythe, Derek Higgins, Pat McCourt, Sam Lyle, Eddie Beggs, Wilbert Yorke, Colin Forde, Jim Dunlop, Tom Frew, Brian McAdam, Jim Hunter, Chris Montgomery and Samuel McClean.



Mrs. E. D. Ferguson was one of the founder members of staff. Here she describes a day out with her Form Class, 1B.

On 6th September 1961 the Form Class assigned to me was 1B. The pupils had come from schools ranging in size from two-teacher to the comparatively large primary school in the town. Most of the pupils in 1B were quiet and retiring. The three-storey building, with its long corridors and numerous classrooms with doors that looked identical, presented many problems to them. It was not long, however, until all the pupils had settled down to their new and different routine, and worked happily and willingly through their first year. They made good progress in all subjects and gradually developed self-confidence and self-reliance.

It was not surprising that one day, while working on a class project, the girls suggested that I should take them for a class outing. They knew what they wanted — a full day bus trip, and I could choose the itinerary. After discussion, I was delegated to seek Mr. Stirling's permission, to hire a bus and to make a few enquiries. They would save their pocket money to pay for the bus and would bring packed lunches.

Suggestions and assurances were offered daily, and by the end of June, after a most satisfactory school year, they had given me the confidence to look forward to the day. On the appointed morning after assembly, we made our way to the

main door. When the bus arrived, all thirty-eight excited pupils — in immaculate uniforms and laden with their picnic food parcels, raincoats and cameras — took their seats. Mr. Stirling, waiting to see us off, asked me quietly if I would like another member of staff to go with me, but I assured him that 1B wanted only "ourselves" and the mascot. As the bus moved off, Mr. Stirling waved and smiled, and 1B waved and cheered until we reached the main road.

We set off in the direction of Randalstown and our first stop was at Shane's Castle. There we ambled around the castle ruins, peered into the Vinery and walked down to the shore of Lough Neagh. After a few minutes of amateur photography, we were on our way to the old bleach factory. In class we had completed a project on linen, and now we had an excellent guided tour, where we saw the processes that no classwork could have demonstrated. Because of the excellent behaviour of 1B, we were allowed to see the hand-painting being done. The pupils showed remarkable interest in this.

Our next stop was the Giant's Causeway, and on arrival pupils were free to walk around and have their picnic. We were seated on those famous six-sided stones when Mr. Lindsay (representative from the local council) joined us.

Our final destination was the Airport. We were greeted at the entrance door by a member of staff, who showed us around and said that two groups could go to the control tower to hear a plane being talked down. The girls preferred to visit the tuck shop, so we let the boys go and met them later at the entrance hall. The class was then invited to see a V.I.P. leave the airport and an official led us through the waiting crowds to a special vantage point. I was told it was His Grace, the Governor of Northern Ireland. As his car was driven slowly past, the class waved and cheered.

Our driver, who had made no small contribution to our enjoyment, soon had us back to school where Mr. Stirling was waiting to greet us. It was a day talked about for years afterwards. 1B loved the outing. They had behaved perfectly and had displayed natural good manners.



Mrs. E. D. (Vina) Ferguson was given 1B as her first Form Class in 1961. At the end of the school's first year, in June 1962, she took them on a bus trip. The photograph shows boys and girls from the class at the Vinery at Shane's Castle during their big day out.



Mr. Metcalfe first came to Ballyclare Secondary as a student, and went on to become Head of Science and Vice-Principal. Here he writes about the changes he has seen in the Staffroom over the years.

Twenty-five years ago the school had an enrolment of 420 pupils, and so the original number of staff was considerably smaller than today. At this time there were no extensions or mobile classrooms, and we even had a few spare rooms. Staff, however, were segregated at breaktime, as the rooms provided were too small for even the 20-25 teachers. The present Staff Study Room was the male staffroom, while the front area of the present staffroom formed the ladies' staffroom. Thus two totally different areas evolved, one smelling of stale pipe and tobacco smoke, while the gents' staffroom was quite pleasant. At lunch time, however, because of the staggered lunch break for junior and senior pupils, the female staffroom was used by everyone. The caretaker, Alfie McLean, brought in one large pot of tea, and at breaktime a plate of biscuits which always had a subtle flavour of Daz, Omo or Surf — most appetising!

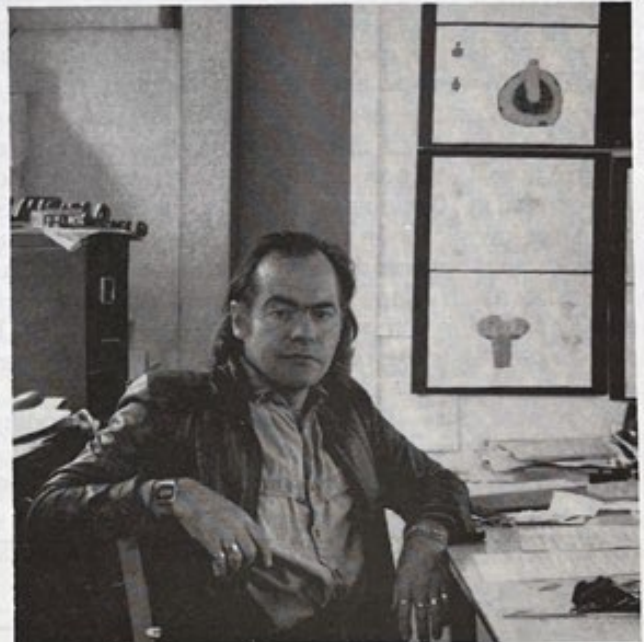


The school's first caretaker, Alfie McLean.

Well I remember the political arguments which occurred and would have put Robin Day's "Question Time" in the shade. Past members of staff including Tommy Gilmer, Jack Middleton, Mark Hunter, Tommy Mayne and Sidney Astbury discussed (usually heatedly) the current topics of the day, and made blunt suggestions as to how Harold Macmillan or

Harold Wilson should run the country. After every Budget there were cries of anguish as the cost of living soared. Beer might go up by 6d per pint (2½p for those under 15) and cigarettes by 2½d (1p) a packet. As Harold Wilson was a pipe smoker, then pipe tobacco was left untouched, and this produced accusations of discrimination in the staffroom. The serious discussions which developed were certainly not ephemeral, but were continued each morning after the participants had had time to brush up on the facts, much like a Downing Street version of Crossroads. Fortunately these serious discussions were frequently interrupted by a wealth of funny stories (all in the best possible taste) from Tommy Gilmer, whose service in the R.A.F. proved most beneficial for source material.

After a few years, in the late sixties, accommodation problems became evident, and some staff found themselves teaching a class at the bottom of the back stairs in the male staff room. After break, I used to teach a class of 20 pupils in what is now the Staff Study Room, but frequently could not enter until the windows had been opened for five minutes to allow the clouds of smoke to disperse — the blackboard and easel could not be seen from the opposite end of the room!



The life and soul of the Staffroom for many years, Mr. Gingles. His sense of humour, it is fair to say, is unique. A talented artist of some repute, he is noted for his natty dress.

The arrival of Roy Millar and Mr. Gingles on the staff really set things going. On one occasion, when all the chairs had been removed for a concert, Mr. Gingles suggested that if one person sat in a "chair position" and the others sat on each others knees to form a circle, then we would not need chairs. This experiment was duly executed, and was working quite well, until Mr. McKnight sat down and caused a heap of tangled bodies to finish on the floor. No further attempts were made, as the unions at that time did not provide personal accident cover. I remember, too, that at lunchtime Sheila Speers, now Education Officer at the Ulster Museum, got involved in lengthy debates with Rev. Bill Brown from the R.E. Department, Mrs. Ferguson and Miss McDowell.

During the seventies, when teachers were almost as badly paid as they are now, the Houghton Award was to be announced on TV. During lunch and after school the staff crowded into Mr. Ward's room to watch the announcement on the only black and white T.V. set in the school. The next day the volume of smoke in the staffroom increased

noticeably, as we pondered how much cash would remain after the tax-man had taken his share.

Many of the stories told in the staffroom arose from actual situations. One classic concerned one of our past pupils who had joined the part-time security forces. His commanding officer had posted this pupil to guard duty, telling him that it was a "high risk security" duty, but that he would need to make arrangements to get home at 2.00 a.m.

Pupil (from telephone box): "Can you send a taxi to pick me up as soon as possible?"

Taxi firm: "Certainly sir — and where can we collect you?"

Pupil: "I'm sorry, I can't tell you that as I'm on special guard duty!"

Honestly, this is a true story. I wonder if that pupil is still waiting?

Slowly the numbers of pupils and staff increased so that the North-Eastern Education Board granted permission for a new extension to the school and the staffroom. It is difficult to believe the conditions that staff were working in compared with the luxury of today. Educational and political arguments still endured in the staffroom. Mr. Stirling would throw in a controversial point to get things going, and then when the discussion was at its peak, would conveniently leave to answer a phone call, a most cunning tactic. The ladies' staffroom was extended, and the original male staffroom became the Staff Study Room, where teachers could retreat to peace and quiet for marking, exam. preparation and so on. The staffroom was now large enough to accommodate our ever-increasing staff — at one stage up to 55 — 24 males and 31 females. I wonder if discrimination was at work here.

At this time it was proving very difficult to make and serve tea to 55 staff in 10 minutes at break, so the Staff Room Sub-committee investigated a proposal to employ a lady to make and serve tea at break and lunch. That lady was Mrs. McCune, who has been with us now for 13 years, and the tea and coffee are now served in a most efficient, pleasant manner. This decision proved to be one of the Sub-committee's better ideas.

At present Mrs. Davison, Head of the Geography Department, is responsible for the catering side of the operation, and sees that the staff have a wide range of waist-



Mrs. McCune (right) has worked in the Staffroom for the last thirteen years. It is entirely due to her that things are rather less chaotic today than they were twenty-five years ago.

fattening snacks in which to indulge. Mrs. Taylor has the unenviable task of extracting the staff fund money to cover the costs and to keep the books in the "black" most of the time. Some of the original members of staff would see vast changes in staffroom conditions since the early days, and many visiting teachers are pleasantly surprised by our comfortable, well-organised facilities.

Many present and past members of staff can only have happy memories of our breaks and lunchtimes spent in convivial conversation and discussion during our first 25 years.



Frank Bennett, the school's first Head Boy, writes about some of the incidents he remembers from his time at Ballyclare Secondary.

I came to the school when it opened, and left in 1963. Those two years were amongst the most enjoyable of my life and certainly of my entire school career. There was a great spirit in the school in those early years. We were all taking a step into the unknown, staff and pupils alike, and that helped to bind us together.

There were no clubs or societies in the early days and, of course, the school was still quite small, but none of this stopped us having fun. Sport was very important, just as it probably still is to-day, and I am still a keen sportsman, just as I was all those years ago. Every day we would stay behind at school long after everyone else had gone home. There was basketball three times a week, and football twice. Mr. Lyons

took the basketball team. It was very competitive. One match in particular stands out. It was the day Mr. Lyons "had his chips". We were playing St. Comgall's, Larne, in the East Antrim Shield semi-finals. It had all the makings of a classic local derby. St. Comgall's were favourites, having lost no games that season, and they had the advantage of playing at home. However, with Mr. Lyons' incentive of fish and chips for all the team if we should win, we were all determined to do our best. I still believe to this day that when Mr. Lyons made his rash promise, he thought we didn't stand a chance, but we were to prove him wrong. At full-time the score was 24-24, with extra time to play. When the final whistle blew we had won, and not only that, we had gained two league points, a place in the final and a plate of fish and chips, courtesy of Mr. Lyons. He was a good sport, and had his chips too.

In those days we seemed to find ourselves in cup finals with amazing regularity, and one fine May evening I found myself playing for the Under 15 football team in the final of the Mid-Antrim Cup against Ballymena Secondary at Dixon Park. On this particular occasion I was playing for more than the honour of the School. My friend, Eddie Beggs, had challenged me that if I could score three goals, he'd give me "two and a kick", by which of course he meant two shillings and six pence or 12½p to-day. It may not sound like much now, but then it was a lot of money, especially to a schoolboy, and I readily accepted the challenge. A large crowd gathered to watch the match, and what a great game it was, in the true



Mr. Parker

tradition of schoolboy soccer. Indeed of all the games I ever played in, and I'm still playing, this was one of the most enjoyable. I scored three goals but I never got my "two and a kick", for the third goal was disallowed. Nevertheless, in spite of taking an early lead, Ballymena were defeated and another trophy came home to Ballyclare.

Of course, not every match I played in was a cup match. I was captain of Lindsay House and as such took part in a variety of sports. Mr. McKnight was the Lindsay House Teacher. When it came to picking a team to play McConnell House, Mr. McKnight organised a rugby trial. To make up the numbers he decided to play in one of the teams himself, and I was his opposite number. During the game I got my opportunity to score. I picked up the ball and, running as fast as I could, past first one player and then another towards the line for a try, suddenly I found myself confronted by the considerable bulk of Mr. McKnight. There he was, solid as a rock, and I was on a collision course with him. After the impact, as I lay on my face in the dirt, I heard him say, "Are you O.K. Frank?" I was, of course, O.K., just a little stunned

and very wet and muddy.

The house competitions generated a lot of fun and enjoyment. On one occasion I and my friend, Jim Moore, were out on a cross-country run. We decided to take a short-cut across a field, but what we didn't realise was that there were horses in the field. We must have startled them, for they began to chase us. We covered the three miles in record time!

Besides sport, music also played an important part in school life. Miss Lusk, who taught music, also organised the school choir and a school band. In that band, I played the harmonica. One of our favourites was "McNamara's Band", which we played with gusto. The choir and musicians also played an important part in the Annual Christmas Carol Service. At the Carol Service I played my part by reading one of the lessons. I was Head Boy, and this was one of my duties. I had already been picked as a Prefect and one morning, while in Mr. Crymble's woodwork class, the Vice-Principal, Mr. Parker, came in and called me out. By the tone of his voice I realised it was a serious matter. My heart sank. What had I done? I thought at least I was going to lose my Prefect's badge. On the way to Mr. Stirling's office, my fears grew as Mr. Parker told me, "You're on the carpet now, Bennett!" I think Mr. Stirling sensed my trepidation. He asked me to sit down, and then came the shock. He told me that I had been selected as the school's first Head Boy. I was speechless. I'd arrived at the office thinking I was "on the carpet". After this news, I very nearly was, literally!

I don't know if the school still has them, but in those days there was a Prefects' Party each year in the Gym. The parties were great fun, but discipline was very strict. Before the event Mr. Parker always warned the girls not to be wearing make-up and, of course, none of them dared. Yes, discipline was strict all right. I remember clearly one occasion in the very early days. The furniture was all new, but covered with dust. We were in Mr. McClelland's room, and I found my smart new uniform covered in dust from the desks. I was brushing it off when I got a clip on the ear from Mr. McClelland for not paying attention!

Reading over this article, it seems as if all we did was play games and enjoy ourselves, but there was plenty going on in the classroom too. I, for one, enjoyed every day at Ballyclare Secondary, except one, and that was the day I had to leave.



Miss Marjorie Hamilton has been a secretary in the office since late 1961. In this article she writes about the ups and downs of working there.

The first thing that struck me when I first walked through the door of Ballyclare Secondary as a replacement for the school's first secretary, Mrs. Joan Barr, was how peaceful everything seemed. The school had almost reached the end of its first term, and the atmosphere was orderly and relaxed. After this the comings and goings around the school office came as rather a shock. It was a hive of activity and, of course, has continued to be so during all my years there as secretary.

I soon made friends with pupils and staff, and slowly got used to the ringing of bells every forty minutes. In those early years, when the number of pupils was smaller than it is today

(there were only 420 in 1961), it was possible to get to know all the faces, and quite a number of their names. I remember most affectionately some pupils who helped me by running willingly with messages to the four corners of the school — Jessie Milligan, the late Wilma Hill (nee Warwick), Sandra Coulter, Irene Montgomery, Shaw Beggs, Basil Gage and Jacqueline Hollinger. Today I still run into some of our earliest pupils in the street, and they always say hello.

Work in the school office was often, but not always, routine. There were always teachers who needed something typed or run off on the duplicator, letters to be written or minutes of the School Management Committee meetings to be typed, and fifty (yes, fifty) copies sent off to County Hall in Ballymena, forms to fill in, and teachers salary cheques to be distributed. From time to time there were minor crises, and very occasionally a major one, but Mr. Stirling was never flustered, and we got by. Working for him was the main reason why I never ever thought seriously of changing jobs, even to one that offered better pay. It's not widely known, but there was a time many years ago when Mr. Stirling used to smoke. When he announced one day that he was giving up, I was a little fearful that withdrawal symptoms might disturb his normally stable equilibrium. As it happened, there was no need to worry, for thanks to a little will power and the magic of Polo mints, the crisis period passed without any outward sign

of disturbance.

When the school was smaller, there was a homely, friendly atmosphere about the place, and many of the staff used to drop into the office to relax briefly over a cup of coffee or a cigarette. Tommy Mayne, who was Head of the Mathematics Department, and who became Vice-Principal about a year after I arrived, was the most pleasant and thoughtful of men. He was a keen rallying fan, and had acted as one of the marshals at the Circuit of Ireland Rally. He had many stories to tell about this, and about his days teaching in primary school. I remember, too, Sidney Astbury, now alas also dead, a very gracious soul whose wife, Joan, worked in County Hall. She used to send in all the urgent mail with her husband. The late Tommy Gilmer, who was responsible for constructing the timetable, used to come into school during the summer holidays when everything was quiet, so that he could get on with this task in peace. Occasionally he would ask me to help in some way, and I can still visualise how the pile of matches built up in the ashtray as he constantly had to relight his famous pipe after a long bout of concentration on some tricky problem. In moments of relaxation he would recall his days in the R.A.F. during the war. Like Mr. Mayne, he really was a fund of fascinating stories.

Miss McDowell, who was the school's first Senior Mistress, and Miss Lusk, the Head of Music, were also frequent visitors to the office, and I remember typing the scripts of the plays they staged. Some years later, Mrs. Buckley and I were Miss McDowell's guests at the Grand Opera House in Belfast, where her sister, Mrs. Isa Foweather, was singing. I also had the pleasure of meeting the late Mrs. Florence McDowell, who presented me with a copy of her book, "Other Days Around Me". Perhaps the greatest character of the "old days" was Jack Middleton, the first Head of the Science Department. There used to be flower beds just outside the office window, and these were tended by Mr. Middleton's Rural Science class. He would occasionally bark instructions to his troops in such a loud voice that I would jump!



One of the many members of staff from the early days remembered by Miss Hamilton is Jack Middleton, the first Head of Science, pictured above with pupils from a Rural Science class in 1963. Mr. Middleton was one of the great characters on the staff. Among his many talents were coaching football teams and giving violin classes. His contribution to the Science Department is detailed in Section 4 of the magazine.



Some of the pupils who helped Miss Hamilton by running messages: Shaw Beggs, Sandra Coulter, Edith Hill and Richard Kennedy. At the time this photograph was taken, Sandra and Richard were Head Girl and Head Boy, while Shaw and Edith were their Deputies.

Right from the first days of the school, Mr. Stirling would receive visits from parents. It is amazing how many of them would sit distressed outside the office, obviously concerned about some matter affecting their children, or even about some problem totally unrelated to the school. When they re-emerged from their chat with "the doctor", they would inevitably have cheered up, their problem solved. Occasionally there were some famous visitors, such as B.B.C personalities Walter Love and Harry Thompson. Slightly less famous was Fernie the Magician, who came into school at the end of June each year to "entertain" the children. At the end of his performance, he would sit outside the office and count his money.

In 1964 there was a sudden increase in the number of pupils attending school, and several new teachers like Miss Smith, Miss Murray (later Mrs. Todd) and Miss Harson (now Mrs. Love) were all appointed to the staff at the same time. It was also around this time that the workload in the office increased to the extent that Mrs. Buckley joined me in a part-time capacity. She became full-time in 1973. Apart from quickly becoming a good team in the office, we also became firm friends, and I got to know her family well. One of Mrs. Buckley's jobs became the typing of the school exam papers. This particular task was one I didn't enjoy when I was on my own in the office in the early days. On one occasion I was still typing them at 10 o'clock at night! However, it was impossible to complain about having to stay late. Most nights during that first year, when I left to catch the 5.10 p.m. bus home, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Mayne and Miss McDowell were still there, ironing out the inevitable teething problems. I have no idea at what time they all managed to get away.

I hate to think of how many times I have answered the telephone since 1961. To begin with, there was only one line through to the school, and things sometimes got hectic as Mr. Stirling, teachers and I all competed to use it. Heaven knows how many incoming calls never got through. It was amazing how many people I got to know quite well through speaking to them on the phone, people such as Mr. Stirling's two great friends, the late John Malone and David Saunders, primary and secondary school headmasters and their secretaries, Alex McCrea and John Montgomery at Ulsterbus, and many others who had reason to contact the



The late Tommy Gilmer, whom Miss Hamilton helped with the timetable.



The late Jimmy Todd, the school patrolman, who was a frequent visitor to the office after his retirement. He was a keen athlete for most of his life, and maintained his interest in the sport until the time of his death.

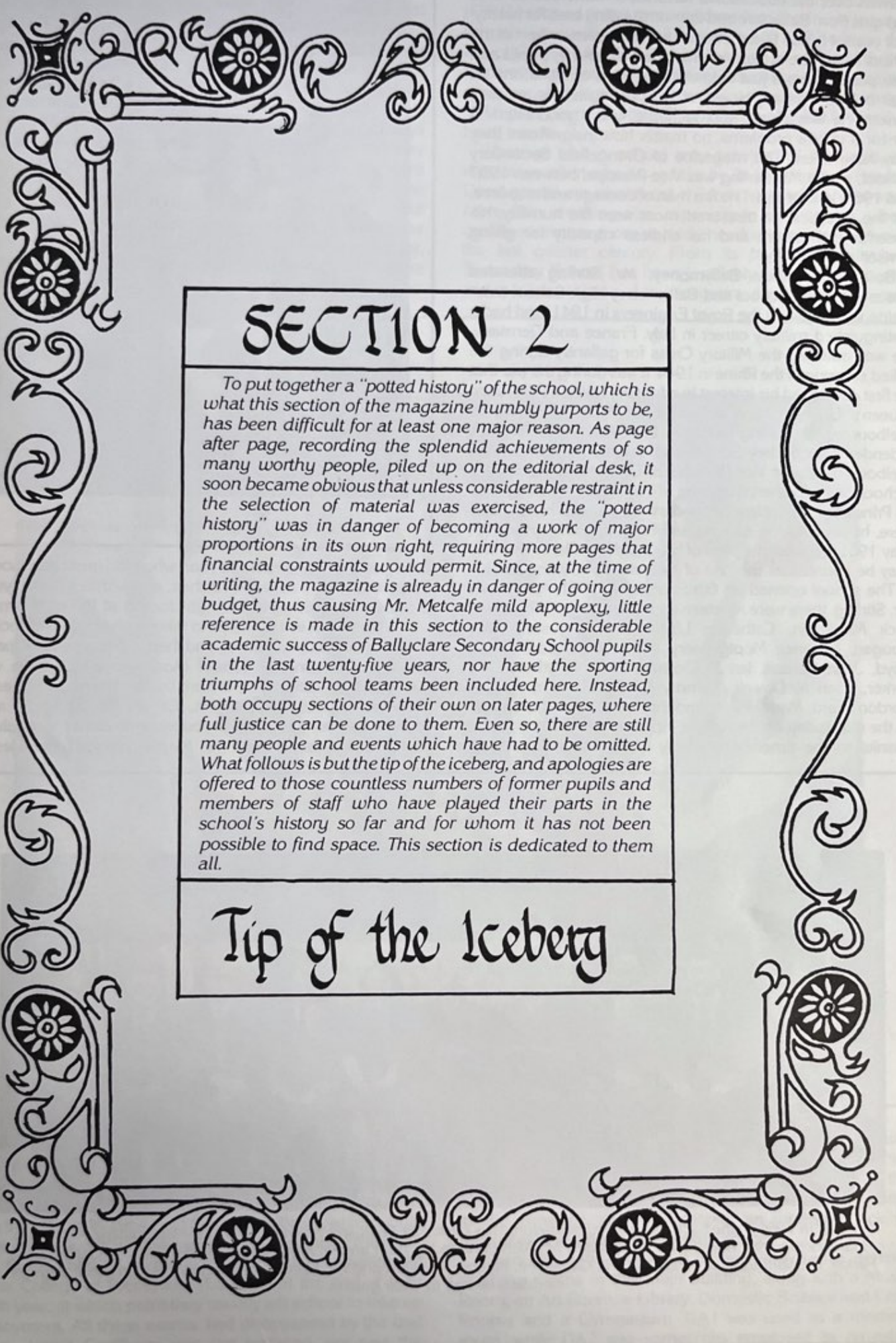
school. Sometimes I was asked by telephone to pass on a message to a pupil that they had just had a baby brother or sister. There were also sadder occasions, when a pupil might be called to the office phone to hear of a bereavement.

Working in the office brought me into contact with so many people, and in conclusion I would like to mention some of them whose co-operation was so essential to getting the school off to a good start. There were the caretakers, Alfie McClean (famous for his poetry) and George Davison; the patrolman, Jim Todd; Mrs. Ardis, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Moore

in the Dining Hall; the late Mr. Harrison, Mr. Greer, Mr. Doherty and Mr. Kelly, the Welfare Officers; Mr. Dunlop, now retired from Staffing in County Hall, Mr. McAllister and Miss Crabbe from the Transport Office, and Mr. McFadden, Mrs. Astbury and Miss Warwick (Purchasing); School Management Committee members, the late Revs. W. D. G. McCullough and W. J. Sloan, Robert Gawn and Frank Warwick. To all of them, and many, many others, I would say thank-you on behalf of all the early pupils, for whom they worked so hard.



Miss Hamilton and Mrs. Buckley present Mr. Stirling with an umbrella and walking stick on his retirement in 1985.



SECTION 2

To put together a "potted history" of the school, which is what this section of the magazine humbly purports to be, has been difficult for at least one major reason. As page after page, recording the splendid achievements of so many worthy people, piled up on the editorial desk, it soon became obvious that unless considerable restraint in the selection of material was exercised, the "potted history" was in danger of becoming a work of major proportions in its own right, requiring more pages than financial constraints would permit. Since, at the time of writing, the magazine is already in danger of going over budget, thus causing Mr. Metcalfe mild apoplexy, little reference is made in this section to the considerable academic success of Ballyclare Secondary School pupils in the last twenty-five years, nor have the sporting triumphs of school teams been included here. Instead, both occupy sections of their own on later pages, where full justice can be done to them. Even so, there are still many people and events which have had to be omitted. What follows is but the tip of the iceberg, and apologies are offered to those countless numbers of former pupils and members of staff who have played their parts in the school's history so far and for whom it has not been possible to find space. This section is dedicated to them all.

Tip of the Iceberg

In June 1985 Mr. Stirling retired. He had been Principal of the school since 1961, and had presided with vitality and warmth over the educational fortunes of hundreds of boys and girls from Ballyclare and the surrounding area for twenty-four years. He had taken a keen interest in every aspect of the school's life. The esteem in which he was held by pupils and their parents was a just acknowledgement of his efforts on their behalf. The happiness of his pupils was his greatest concern. He was always approachable, with a good listening ear for a child's problems, no matter how insignificant they may have been. The magazine of Orangefield Secondary School, where Mr. Stirling was Vice-Principal between 1957 and 1961, said of him: "He is a man of courage and resource, yet the qualities we treasured most were his humility, his cheerful enthusiasm and his endless capacity for giving himself and his time".

Born just outside Ballymoney, Mr. Stirling attended Seacan Primary School and Ballymoney High School (now Dalriada). He joined the Royal Engineers in 1941, and had a distinguished military career in Italy, France and Germany. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the Allied crossing of the Rhine in 1944. It was during the war that he first developed his interest in education. With a B.Sc. from Queen's University and a Dip.Ed. from the University of Melbourne, Mr. Stirling taught in the Boys' Model, Belfast, Edenderry Secondary School and University High School, Melbourne. He was Vice-Principal of Orangefield Secondary School, Belfast, when it opened in 1957, before taking over as Principal of Ballyclare Secondary in 1961. On his final day here, he recalled the date he had been appointed, for 26th May 1961 also saw the birth of his daughter, Clare. That day may be counted as the first of Ballyclare's "Stirling Era".

The school opened on 6th September 1961. Apart from Mr. Stirling, there were nineteen members of staff. They were Jack Middleton, Catherine Lusk, Vina Ferguson, Nora Dougan, Florence Montgomery, Jennifer Dickson, Eileen Boyd, Jean Carson, Ian McClelland, Sidney Astbury, Jim Parker, Joan McDowell, Tommy Gilmer, Tommy Mayne, Gordon Ward, Mark Hunter and three teachers who are still on the staff today, Mr. McKnight, Mr. Crymble and Mrs. Sloan. Thanks to the timetabling ability of Mr. Parker, the Vice-



The late Tommy Mayne, Vice-Principal 1963-1980.

Principal, a highly organised man who paid great attention to detail, there were very few hitches, and within a few days all classes were arriving at the right rooms at the right times.

Mr. Parker left in 1963, first to take up the post of Principal at Kelvin Secondary School, and then to become Principal of Greenland Secondary School (now Larne High). He was succeeded as Vice-Principal here by Mr. Mayne, the Head of the Mathematics Department. Of all Mr. Stirling's able lieutenants over the years, probably none did a more valued and professional job than Mr. Mayne. His local knowledge



The staff in 1966. In the back row are Mr. Middleton, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Ferguson, Miss Dougan, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Sloan, Miss Dickson, Mrs. Boyd, Miss Carson and Mr. McKnight. In the front are Mr. McClelland, Mr. Astbury, Mr. Crymble, Mr. Parker, Mr. Stirling, Miss McDowell, Mr. Gilmer, Mr. Mayne, Mr. Ward and Mr. Hunter. It was customary in those days for members of staff to wear gowns.

was invaluable in deciding the first class placements. Even before he became Vice-Principal, his concern that the school should get off to a smooth start meant that he willingly gave up most of his summer holidays in 1961 to ensure that everything was ready for September. During his career in Ballyclare Secondary, his loyalty to the school and its Principal were unquestioning. His desire that the school's reputation remain unblemished, and that the children get the best education during their years there, occupied all his thoughts and great energy for nineteen years. He was always on hand to help and advise his younger colleagues, and they in their turn liked and respected him. The pupils, too, were fond of him, not because he was "soft" — indeed, no one could show displeasure more swiftly and effectively — but because, in the uncanny way children have, they knew he was on their side. When he retired in 1980, his health was poor, and he died in 1985, his name still honoured in the school he served with distinction.

Preceptors exam., but Senior Certificate was, by the G.C.E. O Level, which was taken, like its predecessor at the age of sixteen. In 1973 the new Certificate of Secondary Education (C.S.E.) allowed many more children than previously to leave school with qualifications. The summer of 1987 will see the last of O Level and C.S.E., which are to be replaced by the General Certificate of Secondary Education (G.C.S.E.), an examination designed to cover almost the whole ability range at 16 plus. Some pupils will continue to sit for R.S.A. and A Level exams.

Whatever else a school may provide for its pupils, its reputation often stands or falls by its examination results. Good grades are what most children and their parents want more than anything else, especially in recent years, when qualifications are more urgently needed than at any time in the last quarter century. From its beginning Ballyclare Secondary School has been justifiably proud of its results, and in a later section of this magazine dealing with the work



Mr. Mayne on his retirement in 1980 with Alison Caruth, Karen Armstrong, Jacqueline Andrew, Amanda Greer, Fiona McCowan, Rosalind Gault and Dorothy Wilson. For nearly nineteen years Mr. Mayne had given generously of his time to the school. He was liked and respected by all, staff and pupils alike. He had many interests outside teaching, particularly rallying, but first and foremost among all that he did was his devotion to the good name of Ballyclare Secondary. He has been much missed by all his friends inside and outside the school.

420 pupils were on the roll in September 1961, 120 in each of 1st and 2nd Forms, 150 in 3rd Form, and the rest in 4th Form. The external examinations which they were to work towards were the Junior Certificate, first taken by a class from the school in 1964, and Senior Certificate, which would be taken by pupils who stayed on until the end of their fifth year. Some children might take a practical examination set by the College of Preceptors (London) at the end of their fourth year, at which point they usually left school to take up employment. All these exams. had disappeared by the mid sixties. Junior Certificate was not replaced, nor was the

of the Departments, a fuller tribute is paid to the quite extraordinary efforts in the classroom of pupils and their teachers over the last twenty-five years. The quality of the teaching, it may be argued, has been as high as in any school in the province, and this despite an increasing lack of resources and adequate teaching space.

When the school opened, there were twelve general teaching rooms in the main building, along with a Music Room, an Art Room, a Library, Domestic Science and Craft Rooms and a Gymnasium. GA1 was used as a medical room, while GA2 was sometimes employed as an extra



The school prizegiving, 1968. Left to right at the back are Andrew Holmes, Jackie McKeown, Raymond Hill, Jim McKeown, Robert Beggs, John Witherhead, and in front, Marty Mewha and Denise Strain.

teaching area. Two mobile classrooms, situated at the back of the school where the extension was later built, were added in 1965. In 1972 the school leaving age was raised from fifteen to sixteen, and the number of pupils on the roll reached an all-time peak at around 900. As a result, more classrooms were needed, and the extension, which included four Commerce Rooms, a Domestic Science flat, two Art Rooms, the Senior Pupils' Common Room and a Project Room, had to be built. It was not completed until January 1975. Six more mobiles were also installed. Today the number of mobiles totals fourteen. The environment in many of them is not entirely conducive to inspiring teaching, and there has been some deterioration in the fabric of the main school building. Strenuous efforts have been made by Mr. Stirling and Mr. McCrea to ensure that money could be made available for repairs, and the teaching profession throughout the country has, through its union leaders, made repeated representations to highlight the lack of proper financial provision by government for education. A lack of decent resources, a conviction that government was not showing sufficient concern for school pupils, and a deterioration in their own living standards, which would require a 35% pay increase to ensure restoration to 1975 levels, led Britain's teaching unions in 1985 to embark upon a period of industrial action at a level and intensity never previously experienced in schools. On 19th July last year the Belfast Telegraph education correspondent wrote: "A battle royal is in prospect when the summer holidays come to an end." Northern Ireland schools, as it turned out, were much less badly disrupted than those on the mainland, but there is no doubt that Ulster teachers did feel, like their colleagues in England, Scotland and Wales, that successive Secretaries of State for Education were continually asking them to deliver more than was possible with diminishing resources. As a group, teachers have never been naturally militant, but by 1985 most of them were prepared to fight for their standards of living, conditions of service and a good education for their



Helping to keep the Common Room clean, Philip Logan in 1976.

pupils. The removal of good will, which temporarily ended Open Nights and extra-curricular activities, was not viewed by anyone in the profession with equanimity, but it was a manifestation of growing dissatisfaction. The dispute ended some months ago, and the current A.C.A.S. talks provide the opportunity for both Government and unions to pause and reflect. At last there is the expectation of more resources being made available for the children and a new salary structure for teachers, whose good will is once again being shown in their commitment to after-school activities.

It is precisely this good will which has allowed Ballyclare Secondary School to provide a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for its pupils. Many teachers, realising the value of contact with children outside the classroom, have willingly devoted an incalculable number of hours of their free time to a range of after-school activities. Sports such as football, basketball, hockey, netball, squash, badminton and athletics have attracted many pupils, and success in inter-school competitions has been frequent. A separate section later in this magazine reviews sport in the school since 1961.

For those not of a sporting disposition there have always been a number of clubs and societies, catering for a variety of interests. As early as 1961 Mr. Parker set up a Chess Club, and for the first decade of the school's life a Film Society attracted large audiences. For some years in the seventies Mr. Atcheson ran the Environmental Society, whose membership included the legendary Harry Robinson. Harry's concern for the quality of the environment was matched only by his love of public speaking, and he was a founder member of the Debating Society. Neither of these two clubs survived long after he left school in 1978. The Irish Dancing Society won a number of cups and medals in the mid-seventies. It was coached by Miss Roberts, and its membership included such sylph-like figures as Janice Suitters, Joyce Mills, Sandra Fee, Shirley Scott, Heather Dodds, Julie Rankin, Anne Esler and Anne Bryson. Those pupils with musical talents have found an outlet in the school choir, which established a reputation in the early sixties for its excellence at Ballyclare and Carrickfergus Music Festivals, and the school orchestra, now alas long since defunct. The school has been fortunate in the quality of its music teachers, Miss Lusk, Mr. Beattie, Miss Quigley and currently, Miss Harvey who, along with the multi-talented Miss Whittock, runs the popular Guitar Club.



The legendary Harry Robinson, pictured here with some of his classmates from 5A1 in 1976.

For a time in 1982 and 1983 Mr. Stewart's Fishing Club attracted quite a few budding anglers, while the most recently-formed school societies are the Computer Club, the Jogging Club and the Ramblers' Club.

Between 1975 and 1980 a club supervised by senior pupils operated in Room 4. Set up by Mrs. Dennis, it was called the Fun Club, and its members were drawn from the



Sport has always featured large in the range of extra-curricular activity. The picture shows Mr. Lyons and the 1963/64 Under 12 football team.



Miss Roberts and the girls of the Irish Dancing Society in 1977, winners of the McGladdery Cup at Ballyclare Folk Dancing Festival.

school's junior forms and from the P6 and P7 classes of Ballyclare Primary School. The idea was to provide a relaxed atmosphere where the members participated in board games and quizzes or enjoyed "The Reading Corner", and it proved a valuable link between primary and secondary school pupils. The senior pupils who gave up much of their free time to help with the younger children were Heather Beattie, Tracy Mitchell, Wilma Kirk, Margaret McMaster and Linda Wilson. With the establishment of the Junior Youth Club, membership of the Fun Club fell from over forty to five. In these circumstances it was no longer viable, and it came to an end. Still going strong after over twenty years, however, is the Scripture Union. One of its founder members was Mr. McClelland, who taught Science. It has continued to meet regularly each week since the early sixties, and it has extended its activities to include talks from guest speakers, weekends at Parkmore and in Bangor, and the "Top of the Form" Inter-School Quiz, organized by the Newtownabbey branch of the Young Life Group. Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Young and Mr. Cooke have been leaders of the S.U. in the past. Today Miss McWilliam, Mrs. Davison, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Dunlop, Mr. Lewis, Mr. McKnight, Mr. McCrea and Mrs. Alexander help in organising the S.U. programme.

The Drama Group has repeatedly enraptured audiences over the years with the excellence of its annual productions. For example, in 1969 Ralph Steele, Kathleen McKee, Jim Finlay, Roy Tweedie, George Horner and Joel McGowan starred in "Trouble in Baghdad". This was followed by "Oliver" (1970), with Basil Gage in the title role, Francis Murray as Fagin and Kenneth Forsythe as The Artful Dodger,

and "The Wizard of Oz" (1971), starring Denise Drummond as Dorothy. There were other successes including "The Boyfriend" (1973), which included a particularly daring can-can featuring Elizabeth Getty, Irene Wallace, Jacqueline Hollinger, Yvonne McMeekin and Karen Telford, "Cinderella" (1974), "Olkahoma" (1975) in which good performances were given by Lindsay Geary, Jim Campbell, George Gault, Isobel Hollinger and Robin Higginson, and "Aladdin" (1977). In recent years the audiences have continued to flock in. They have not been disappointed, for the Drama Group has maintained its high standards with "The Importance of Being Ernest" (1981), "Oliver" again (1982) and "Jack and the Beanstalk" (1983). The current generation of fine actors includes Timothy Campbell and David Morrison. The numbers of staff and pupils involved in all the Drama Group productions has been impressive. Miss McDowell and Miss Lusk set the standard early on, and since then Mrs. Davison, Mrs. McNally, Miss Roberts, Mr. Beattie and Miss Harvey have all taken on the burden of directing and producing, not just the musicals and pantomimes, but the concerts and other entertainments which have been such a notable feature of school life. Many others have made valuable contributions to the productions. For example, Mr. Metcalfe and Mervyn Higginson have been in charge of many a stage lighting team, Mr. Adrain, Mr. Gingles and their colleagues have built and painted sets, Miss Smith and the Home Economics Department have spent many a long hour making costumes, while Mrs. Love and Mrs. M. Ferguson have looked after props and make-up.



The first full-scale musical to be produced by Miss McDowell in the mid-sixties was "Way Out West", starring Jim Robinson (left), Kathleen McKee and Jim Finlay.



Basil Gage, Kenneth Forsythe and Francis Murray in the 1970 production of "Oliver".



One of the more recent Drama Club productions was "The Importance of Being Earnest" in 1981. The cast, pictured from left to right, are Deborah Brennan, Geoffrey Ellison, Mary Wilson, Patricia Houston, Jim Gault, James Elison, Judith Donnell and Jacqueline McAfee.

Travel, it is often said, broadens the mind. If this is true, then Ballyclare Secondary pupils must have the broadest minds in East Antrim, for school trips, both near and far, have taken place regularly since 1961. What follows is only a small sample.

Most of the pupils in the mid-seventies visited the cottage at Parkmore which the school helped renovate and furnish. Geography field trips have been a common occurrence, the most spectacular being that to Majorca in 1985. A particularly exciting event for geographers took place in November 1971, when seventy-three of them, together with Mr. Ward, made a flight over part of the Province to see geographical features from the air. Trips abroad have included those to Paris, beginning in 1968, organised by Mrs. Bradley, and another to the Alps for a skiing holiday in 1974. These ski trips were revived in 1981 by P.E. teacher, Mrs. W. Campbell, and have continued, with very few accidents, every year since then. She, together with Miss Whittock, Miss Neill and, last year, Mrs. Taylor, has accompanied school parties of around thirty to forty youngsters to Madessino and Artesina in Italy, Leysin in Switzerland, and Pamporavo and Barovets in Bulgaria. In 1971 and 1975 educational cruises were arranged by Mrs. M. Ferguson to the Mediterranean on board "S.S. Uganda". Less ambitious, but no less enjoyable was a visit to the Boat Show in London in 1972. Also in 1972 Miss McDowell took pupils from her English classes to see the Bronte country in Yorkshire. Sports trips of all kinds have been organised over the years. For example, Mrs. Caldwell and Mrs. Dickey took members of the school Hockey and Netball Clubs to Edinburgh a number of times in the seventies. The Basketball Club, together with Mr. Lyons and Mr. Waldron, played matches in Belgium in 1976, while between 1975 and 1980 Mr. Todd organised six soccer trips to Liverpool and Manchester. In 1971 4C1 went to see round Windsor Park, and in 1972 the Rugby Club visited Ravenhill to watch the New Zealand "All Blacks" play Ulster.

Perhaps the most praiseworthy activity in which pupils have become involved is the raising of funds for charity. Many hundreds have given up their time to help those less fortunate than themselves. In 1971, for example, Marbeth



Paul Montgomery, John Robinson, Jeffrey Crone, Robert Dunn, David Gracey, Norman Laird and Alex Henry on the 1978 football tour to Liverpool.

Smyth and Kenny Higgins of 4C1 organised a collection to provide Christmas presents for the Army. In 1972 £120 was raised by pupils of Mrs. M. Ferguson for the Asere Hawariat School in Ethiopia. Then in 1973 1C1 collected £27 for physically handicapped children. This particular cause has been regularly supported ever since, with Mrs. Alexander carrying on the work begun by Miss Lusk of selling Christmas seals. Also in 1973 5B raised £59 for the Victoria Homes, and in 1974 2C2 sold Christmas cards to a value of £40 for the Save the Children Fund. This practice also continues under the guidance of Mrs. Martin. It was as far back as 1974 that



Mr. Manson and Miss Smith with the pupils who went on the 1980 cruise on "S.S. Uganda".



The recent famine in Ethiopia highlighted the plight of the world's starving, and virtually every pupil in the school made some contribution towards improving the lot of these most unfortunate of people. The photograph above shows pupils of 4V, who raised £270 for Ethiopia in 1965. However, charity contributions have been collected in school since it opened in 1961, and many fund-raising events have been held.

the "Blue Peter" television programme made an appeal for stamps to be sent in as part of its campaign to raise funds for Ethiopia. 9,199 stamps were sent in by pupils from the school. The plight of the starving in Ethiopia was brought again to the forefront of public consciousness by Bob Geldof's Band Aid. Many classes completed the Lorry of Grain Project, while others held a sale, knitted vests for refugee children or participated in a twelve-hour fast organised by 6th former pupil Gavin McDowell. The annual Oxfam appeal in 1974 realized £240, and that particular charity, along with Dr. Barnado's Homes and the N.S.P.C.C., continue to benefit from the weekly charity collections organised by each class charity representative, a scheme originally begun by Mrs. Bradley some years ago. Cystic Fibrosis is supported by a school postal service at Christmas and on St. Valentine's Day, organised by Mrs. McNally, while Mr. Cross holds an Easter egg raffle on behalf of the Ballyclare Lions Club.

During the last few years several classes have "adopted" a foster child as their contribution to school charity. With the help of "Foster Parents Plan", the school now has four foster children. 4A fosters a girl in Mussorie, India, 3D an eleven-year-old boy in Senegal, West Agricra, 2K a ten-year-old boy in Kenya, and 2W a twelve-year-old boy, also in Kenya. Each pupil contributes 10p per week, and they can keep in touch with their particular foster child by letter and card. The money goes directly to the foster child or his family, or to improving his education, his home or his community.

In the last year Jamie Hamill and the current 2D raised money for the R.S.P.B., while Anne Kirkpatrick and what is now 2M sent a contribution to the Royal Victoria Hospital's Children's Heart Unit. As part of the Sport Aid Project, Mrs. Bradley and seventeen pupils took part in the May Fair Fun Run, while the Girl's P.E. staff and another group of pupils entered for the "Run The World" 10-kilometre race in Belfast.

The concern shown by pupils over the years is echoed by the staff's concern for the social welfare of the pupils they teach. Since its earliest days Ballyclare Secondary has been proud of its caring approach to pupils' problems. It has always been believed that the Class Teachers are the most important people in the pupils' school lives. Each Class Teacher will see his or her class at least once a day at



Samuel Gitonga from Kenya, fostered by 2W last year.



Miss Pat Watson (left) at the Oxfam sale which she organised in the school in 1966.

registration or class assembly, and will know each pupil on an individual basis. In 1973 the Year Teacher system was introduced to help in counselling pupils. It was envisaged that the Year Teachers would be those to whom Class Teachers could turn with specific pupil-related problems. A few years later the role of the Year Teachers was changed to monitoring academic progress, and the main counselling role returned to Miss McDowell, the Senior Mistress. When the concept of counselling as a specialist role in pastoral care came to the fore, Mr. Stewart, who also co-ordinates the various charity schemes, was appointed as Senior Counsellor in 1978. His post involved co-ordinating the work of all staff responsible for pupil welfare, organising parental interviews and acting as a link between the school and outside agencies.

This care and concern for pupils is particularly important when the great majority of children arrive in the school feeling themselves already to be "failures". The achievements of these children in examinations and in the whole range of extra-curricular activity continues to make a nonsense of the iniquitous Eleven Plus examination which divides children at that age into "success" and "failures". For many years Mr. Stirling was a champion of comprehensive education and an end to Eleven Plus, serving as a member of the Association for Comprehensive Education, of which he was Chairman between 1978 and 1983. He believed that selection at the age of eleven is wrong, because it is not possible to classify children in different types. There was no room for terms such as "reject" in Mr. Stirling's vocabulary. To achieve their full educational potential, he believed that schools should encourage every child to develop the widest possible range of abilities and skills. Thus his passionate belief in the comprehensive system of education.

It seemed as if a breakthrough was about to be made in 1975 with the publication of the Cowan Report, which invited schools in Northern Ireland to submit plans to the government on how education in their local areas might be reorganised. A committee of staff in Ballyclare Secondary laboured hard and long on this task and eventually produced its recommendations, endorsed by parents, which involved the introduction of a comprehensive system in Ballyclare. With the advantage of hindsight, it is obvious that the vested interests which still control education would never allow the Ballyclare Secondary School submission to see the light of day. So it is that selection still dominates the schooldays of Ballyclare children. Inequality and injustice are still alive, well and thriving. It is a distressing thought that when the school celebrates its Golden Jubilee, the spectre of selection may still be hovering over education in Northern Ireland, a full fifty years after the comprehensive system was first introduced on the mainland.

It is hardly surprising, given the amount of preparation done in the months before the school opened, that a routine was quickly established in the early weeks of the first term. The school day began with Assembly at 9.15 a.m. and finished at the end of ninth period at 3.35 p.m. From Easter 1972 these times changed to those we still use today, 8.50 a.m. till 3.00 p.m., and the morning assembly has, for some years, had variations on the original theme, taking the form of Class, Year, House, Junior or Senior Assemblies. A registration period at the beginning of each day was introduced in September 1985. The changes of 1972 caused a few problems at the time, especially for those who had to catch one or other of the school buses. Several pupils expressed doubts as to whether they could get up sufficiently early. Others worried that they would not be hungry enough to eat lunch as early as the new time for 1st and 2nd Forms of 11.45 a.m. However, as is always the case, a new and acceptable routine was quickly established.

Speaking of routine, there are two groups of pupils who, over the years, have helped enormously in the smooth



It used to be customary for Class Teachers to take their pupils on a day trip each year. Pictured here are some of Miss Allen's 2A at Ballygalley in 1968.

running of the school. The Monitor system was introduced in January 1972. Mr. Todd, Miss Roberts and Mrs. Graham took their turns at supervising the Monitors, before Mrs. Best assumed control in 1978. The excellent work of these 2nd Year pupils in "guarding" strategic points in the school building during First Lunch continues as efficiently as ever in the past. Many Monitors have gone on to become Prefects, who do a similar job during Second Lunch, as well as helping out at school functions in the evenings. The Prefect system is as old as the school itself, and only three teachers have been in charge of supervising them, Miss McDowell (1961-71), Mr. Todd (1971-77) and Mrs. Currie (1977-86). As a reward for their efforts, the Prefects have often been allowed to hold parties or dances, and more recently, discos. But it was felt from early on that some other means should be found of recognising their efforts. In 1971, therefore, the Prefects, who



The Senior Counsellor, Mr. Stewart.



Mrs. Best's 2H get a treat! They are pictured here on their visit to Ballyclare Sewage Works in June 1977. The teachers are Mrs. McDowell and Mrs. Best.

until then had had nowhere to go at lunchtime, were allowed to use one of the mobile classrooms in the playground to have lunch and relax. They borrowed an electric kettle and some cups, and settled happily into the old Room 13 (Room 17 today). With the completion of the school extension in 1975, the Prefects moved into the new Common Room. Compared to the mobile, their new surroundings were luxurious, with a tea bar, study area and a space for snooker and table-tennis tables. The room was eventually equipped from funds raised by the Prefects themselves, and a rota system for washing dishes and sweeping floors was arranged and supervised by them. It is unfortunate that in the last couple of years the Common Room has had to be used as a classroom for part of the day. In 1972 a special Prefect's tie was introduced, which is still worn today.

The school has been particularly fortunate in its Head Boys and Head Girls. In the last twenty-five years the following pupils have held these important posts: Frank Bennett (1961-64), Harry Wright (1964-66), Robert Elliott (1966), Derek Higgins (1966), Edwin Forsythe (1967), Stephen Mitchell (1968), Jim McKeown (1969), Willie Hutchinson (1970), Martin Beattie (1971), Kenneth McBride (1972), Paul Frizzell (1972-73), Richard Kennedy (1973-74), Shaw Beggs (1974), Ivor McKeown (1974-75), Henry Morgan (1976-77), Jim Wilson (1977-78), George Buckley (1978-79), Brian Price (1979-80), Raymond McNair (1980-81), Alex. Agnew (1981-82), Nigel Allen (1982-83), Paul Harvey (1983-84), Nigel French (1984-85), Sean Dobson (1985-86), Elizabeth Kenny (1961-64), Joan Todd (1964-65), Deirdre Saunders (1965-66), Lyla Kerr (1966-67), Eileen Frazer (1967-68), Roberta McAuley (1968), Mary Carmichael (1969), Kaye



Eileen Frazer, Head Girl 1967-68.

Wilson (1970), Linda Quail (1971-72), Sandra Coulter (1972-74), Margaret Sloan (1974-75), Doreen Beattie (1975-76), Andrea McCaughey (1976-77), Isobel Hollinger (1977-78), Karen Bryson (1978-79), Margaret Logan (1979-80), Norma Bradford (1980-81), Mandy Jackson (1981), Jacqueline McAfee (1982), Ann Bissett (1982), Sonia Jackson (1982-83), Laura Dobson (1983), Melanie Kirk (1983), June Herron



Two prefects, Shirley Warwick and Stephen McCollam, on duty at the main door in 1977.



Head Girl (1984-85), Tracy Ireland, pictured at the Eiffel Tower on a trip organised by the French Department.

(1983-84), Tracy Ireland (1984-85) and Zoe Lorrimer (1985-86).

In researching this publication, one source of information which has been of immense value is "Newsbeat", the school newspaper. Its first edition appeared on 30th September 1971. Although much time and effort had been spent by Mr. Todd and his team in meeting the deadline, its eight pages were rather less polished than had been hoped for. However, throughout its first year, ten issues of "Newsbeat" appeared at monthly intervals at the price of 2½p each, and it gradually took on a rather more professional look, selling in total 4000 copies. Valuable assistance had been rendered by a number of pupils, especially Lynn McDowell, Donald Reid, Sammy Wilson, John Kennedy, Kenny Logan and Clive Thompson, who wrote news stories, features and sports items, drew cartoons and headlines, stapled the pages together and sold the finished product. Since 1971 over 300 pupils have helped in some way with the production of "Newsbeat". Although production costs have meant price increases over fifteen years, the school newspaper is now more popular than ever. Costing 10p for between 16 and 24 pages, it sells more than 500 copies per month. Incidentally, the biggest-selling edition of "Newsbeat" was issue number 23 of 17th December 1973. It was the first to contain photographs, and sold 823 copies.

"Newsbeat" began as a disseminator of news, but with the introduction of the daily information sheet in 1976, it lost its immediacy, and its style and content slowly changed. Nowadays it still has news items, and a very full sports coverage, but many of its features have become light-hearted in nature. Trivial and self-indulgent it may be on occasions, but as a record of school life it continues to fulfil a vital function, and its popularity with pupils and their parents is greater than ever, especially the continuing revelations of Peeping Tom in "Private Eye". Mr. Todd edited the first fifty-five "Newsbeats". Numbers 56-73 were edited by Mrs. Kitson and Mrs. Gawn, before Mr. Todd took over again three years ago.

The school was just beginning its second decade when the go-ahead was given for a Youth Club to operate in the main school building on Monday and Thursday evenings. It had its

origins in the Ballyclare Royals Basketball Club, whose coach, Mr. Lyons, realised that there was a need for a much wider range of activity for young people in the town. The Youth Club aimed to provide just this. Membership was open to anyone aged between fourteen and nineteen. Mr. Lyons was assisted by Miss Smith, Mr. Waldon, Mr. Holmes and, for shorter periods, by Mr. Todd, Mr. Blair and Mervyn Higginson. The Club first opened its doors in November 1971, and it has since become such a vital part of school life that it is difficult to imagine Ballyclare Secondary without it. Over the years it has expanded considerably since its humble beginnings, but the most significant advance was when the Youth Centre, specially designed for use by young people in the evenings, and by other community groups during the day, was built in the school playground. It was ready for use in 1979. A year earlier Mr. Lyons, having given so much of his time to the Club, stepped down when Miss Williamson was appointed as the school's first Youth and Community Tutor. When she got married, becoming Mrs. Cooke, she moved to the Lisburn area to become Divisional Youth Officer, and her post in Ballyclare was taken over in January 1981 by Mr. Younger, who has presided over a period of substantial expansion. The Club now opens four evenings a week and on Saturday mornings. Adults from the local community, many of them former pupils, help run the Youth Centre, and Club leaders regularly attend courses in youth work. The Centre has continued to build up its resources, and members have just built two canoes (more are to follow) to add to the recently acquired tents and cooking equipment. Mr. Younger hopes to get permission from Newtownabbey Council to have part of the Six Mile River at the back of the school grounds made into a canoeing stretch. The varied Youth Club programme now includes specialised activities such as judo, gymnastics, and weight-training. In recent years Club members have contributed to the success of Ballyclare May Fair Week, and in 1984 they took part in the Channel Four television programme "Trax-Trix". With residential and camping weekends, holidays in such places as the Isle of Man, dinner dances, discos, inter-club visits and competitions and summer schemes, it is hardly surprising that the membership now stands at over four hundred.



One of the big attractions at the Youth Club in 1973 was the visit of a famous D.J. He was so famous we don't know his name.



Gail Williamson, the school's Youth Tutor, pictured here with Jim Kelly, in the new Youth Centre in 1979.



Each year since 1970 a Summer Activity Scheme has been organised in Ballyclare Secondary. This 1978 photograph shows Ballyclare's John Robinson taking part in "It's A Knockout", in which his team failed to triumph over several other schools! John, better known as "Bubble", has travelled far and wide since leaving school. Last year, for instance, he spent three months in South America as part of "Operation Raleigh". This year he spent some time in the Far East, before moving to Australia, where he is currently working.

The Youth Club had established itself by the early seventies. Young people were enjoying the facilities and activities provided, and some of them decided to put something back into the community. This was the beginning of the Community Service Project. In January 1973 a group of Club leaders and senior girls made contact with the local Health Visitor, Mrs. Ita Kyle, who advised on how the Project could be set up. By February it was underway. It consisted of weekly visits to senior citizens in Ballyclare by senior Club members, and the organisation of a social event for the old people every month. The very first function was organised by girls such as Carol Smyth, Marie Gault, Sandra Coulter and Elaine Knox. Many other girls soon joined the Project, and over the years it developed into a most worthwhile activity. Guided by Miss Smith, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Waldron, Miss Lusk and Mrs. Bradley, the girls organised various social events, ranging from pet shows and cookery demonstrations to bus trips and picnics. Catering was done by the girls and Youth Club Leaders. However, the most important part of the Project was the weekly visit, and emphasis was always placed on the importance of reliability by the girls, and the regularity of their visits. A Project such as this is only as good as the people in it, and there is no doubt that over the years the girls involved were absolutely marvellous, the real reason for its success.

It was Miss Smith who shared the responsibility for inaugurating the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in the school. On a very damp, foggy morning in 1964 she and Miss Millar attended a course in Ballymoney. On the basis of the little they were told there, they were expected to organise the scheme. Perhaps it was better to be thrown in at the deep end, for by trial and error the two ladies got the Scheme established. Soon it was flourishing, and over the years many girls gained Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. It was particularly difficult to win the Gold Award, not only because of the high standard required, but because many pupils left school at sixteen, and the work for Gold just started at that age. However, two groups of girls did get this coveted award. In 1975 Sandra Coulter, June Topping, Rosemary Andrew, Irene Johnston and Margaret Sloan went to Buckingham Palace to collect their certificates, and they were followed in 1980 by Carolyn Andrew, Miriam McCullough and Yvonne Hanna.

The Scheme covers a vast range of activities. The Ballyclare girls did everything from floral art to mountain climbing and community work. One group of twenty Silver Award girls took part in a police course over a period of six months, which culminated in a day trip to Enniskillen to attend an R.U.C. passing-out ceremony. Some activities were undertaken on an individual basis. For example, Jessie



The girls of the Community Service Project, which began in 1973, did some quite outstanding work for old people in the Ballyclare area, including taking them to shows. This picture, taken in November 1976, shows some of the girls, all dressed up for the occasion, ready to take some senior citizens to "The Good Old Days" at the Grove Theatre. The girls are (back row) May Wilson, Elaine Cross, Sandra Gillespie, Joanne McInstry, Carol Smylie, Joanne Adamson, and (front row) Rhonda Ferguson, Adair Reid, Heather Dodds and Diane Patterson.



Sandra Coulter, June Topping, Rosemary Andrew and Irene Johnston with Miss Smith at Buckingham Palace in July 1978, when the girls were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.

Milligan made a weekly trip to Belfast for six months for a course with the Fire Service. The Scheme was very dependent on voluntary assistance from members of the public, people in industry or in the Health and Social Services. Miss Smith and Miss Millar (later Mr. Martin) were always very grateful for that help. When Mrs. Martin had to give up her involvement in the Scheme, Miss Savage and Mrs. Moore took her place. The Scheme came to an end in Ballyclare Secondary in 1980 after sixteen years.

There had also been a boys' Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for some years from 1971, and many of them won Bronze awards. Mr. Holmes was the teacher in charge, and his place was taken in 1980 by Mr. Blair. The boys' Scheme has also ended.

The involvement of pupils in the life of the school took novel form in the School Council, a committee of pupils, elected by their peers to discuss ways in which they themselves could influence how the school was run. After a brief burst of activity in the mid-sixties, a new Council was elected in April 1973, and for three years it met regularly, discussing such topics as homeworks, smoking, school discipline, uniform and the need for a pupils' common room. Although the Council has long since gone the way of all flesh, it is interesting to note that some of its suggestions were put into practice, notably the provision of the Senior Common Room, the wearing of slacks by girls in the winter months, the introduction of the Prefects' tie and the annual Inter-House Quiz. Whilst members of the Council usually showed great enthusiasm for their role, especially secretaries Linda Mitchell and Margaret Sloan, general apathy among senior pupils in the school meant that meetings were discontinued.



Mrs. Martin who, with Miss Smith, set up the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in the school in 1964.

It has always been though essential that parental involvement in the school be maintained at as high a level as possible. Parents, for example, had places on the old school management committee, and now on the new Board of Governors, which came into being in January 1986. Four parents are governors, Mrs. Elliott (mother of Louise), Mrs. McCullagh (mother of Philip and Edwin), Mr. Bell (father of

Colin) and Mr. McClean (father of David). For many years before 1973 there had also been a Parents' Association, whose secretary was Mrs. E. D. Ferguson, but in that year it was replaced by the Parent/Teachers' Association. Since it was set up, the P.T.A. has been instrumental in organising a host of fund-raising events, not least of all that marvellous fair in 1975 which brought in £2,000. Funds from P.T.A. events are donated to the school, and in today's economic climate they are most gratefully received.

One member of staff rarely to miss a P.T.A. function was Mrs. Montgomery, who succeeded Miss McDowell as Senior Mistress. Florence Montgomery was one of those who were involved in the preparations for the opening of Ballyclare Secondary, and her contribution to the school, to her own Home Economics Department and numerous school functions over twenty-two years until her retirement in 1983 was immense. Her interests and activities were varied. She could be found, for example, organising a P.T.A. whist drive, making curtains for classrooms or costumes for plays, catering for an "Old Tyne" dance, baking mince pies for social staff meetings or arranging a staff dinner. Few events took place in school without Mrs. Montgomery being involved in some way. Many pupils and members of staff have cause to remember her with affection, for she had the ability to get on with everyone. She had an inimitable brand of humour, and many of her actions and comments caused quite a laugh. When she retired, the many gifts she received were a reflection of the respect in which she was held.

Loyalty to an institution and its ideals is a valuable quality. In the case of Ballyclare Secondary School it was displayed by many of its early staff like Mrs. Montgomery, Mr. Mayne and Miss McDowell. Other founder members who stayed at Ballyclare for long periods were Mr. Ward, who became Vice-Principal before he left, Miss Lusk, Mr. Astbury, Mr. Gilmer,



Mr. Platt, on the staff of the school for twenty years between 1964 and 1984.

Mr. Middleton, Mrs. E. D. Ferguson, Mrs. Sloan and Mr. McClelland. Then there were the likes of Mr. Platt and Mrs. M. Ferguson, who joined the staff a few years later, and remained to make major contributions. Of the current staff more than thirty have chalked up ten or more years service. They are Mr. McKnight (25 years), Mr. Crymble (25), Mr. Lyons (24), Miss Smith, Mrs. Love and Mrs. Bradley (all 23).



Mrs. Montgomery, pictured here on her retirement in 1983, with Head Boy, Nigel Allen, Head Girl, Sonia Johnston, and Mr. Swirling.



Mr. Adrain, Head of Metalwork, twenty-one years at Ballyclare Secondary.

Mr. Adrain (21), Mr. Robinson (20), Miss McWilliam (19), Mrs. Martin and Mr Cross (both 18), Mr. Todd, Mrs. Currie and Mr. Gingles (17), Mr. Holmes (16), Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Davison, Mrs. M. Campbell and Mr. Waldron (all 15), Miss Roberts (14), Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Boyd and Miss Hutchinson and Mrs. Best (all 13), Mr. Atcheson and Mr. Blair (12), Mrs. W. Campbell, Mrs. Alexander and Mr. Stewart (11), and Mr. Graham and Mr. Siberry (10). We have not forgotten Mr. Metcalfe, who joined the staff in 1963, after he had completed his teaching practice at Ballyclare Secondary, when his motorbike proved something of an attraction. As Head of Science, and then Vice-Principal, he has carried out his duties in a quiet and efficient manner. A keen gardener, he also has an interest in Youth Hostelling. Along with some colleagues, he set up a Ramblers' Club in the early days of the school, it's main rule being that no one was allowed to stop before he or she got to the very top of the mountain! A gentleman in every sense of that word, he continues to serve the school community as actively as ever.

Long service is not just the prerogative of the teaching staff. For example, Miss Hamilton and Mrs. Buckley, despite frequent interruptions, succeed in getting through a mountain of work at the hub of the organisation in the school office. Ancillary staff Mervyn Higginson (Science), Henrietta Cameron (Home Economics) and Sammy McCalmont (C.D.T.) have been very much part of their respective teams over the years. Successive caretakers Alfie McClean, George Davison, Jackie Wright and Francey McConnell, together with the cleaning staff of Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. Turkington, Mrs. McClung, Mrs. Tweedie, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Letson, Mrs. Burnim, Mrs. Gault and Mrs. Wright have kept the inside of the school building neat and tidy, while the playing fields have been lovingly tended by Archie McKinstly and Kevin McCudden. Hungry teachers have long had cause to be grateful to Mrs. McCune, who serves tea and coffee in the staffroom. For many years the school patrolman was the late Jimmy Todd, while the canteen has been smoothly run by Mrs. McConnell and her staff.

What has been written about the school in this section of the Silver Jubilee magazine is but the tip of the iceberg. The hundreds of children who have passed through its doors



Sammy McCalmont

have all, in their individual ways, contributed to its story, some in less spectacular fashion than others. For example, in 1971 Louise Jenkins and Michael Pyper of 3B1 saw "flying objects" in the sky. They checked with Armagh Observatory, who told them to lay off the bottle. In 1972 Gladys Higgins literally dreamt up the name "Victoria Road" and won £2 from the local council. Twenty-five years on from its beginning, the school has witnessed changes, great and small. Those who taught here in 1961 could never have predicted how different subject content and teaching methods would have become by 1986.

In September 1985 Mr. McCrea succeeded Mr. Stirling as Principal. He had entered the teaching profession in 1972, and taught at Dunmurry High School and Laurelhill High School, where he was Head of the Mathematics Department. He spent two years working for the Q.U.B. Support Service, and became Vice-Principal of Ballyclare Secondary in March 1981 in succession to Mr. Mayne. Together with Mr. Metcalfe, Mr. McComb (who was appointed Vice-Principal in September 1985) and Mrs. McCormick (Senior Mistress since September 1983), he now leads his staff into a new era. Whatever else may change in the next twenty-five years, Mr. McCrea is determined that the philosophy of Ballyclare Secondary School will remain as it always was: That every child, regardless of intellectual ability or social background, should have a rewarding educational experience; that every child should achieve personal excellence; that all children are of equal worth, and should be valued as unique individuals.



Former groundsman, Archie McKinstly, with Alex Murray.



SECTION 3

In putting this magazine together, the editorial team talked to a great many people about Ballyclare Secondary School's past. Very often, it seemed, what stood out in someone's mind was not one of the major events in the school's history, but some incident of very minor importance, something trivial, but nonetheless important to the person concerned.

Since "trivia" is currently in vogue, this section of the magazine is devoted to precisely that - memories, some amusing, some not, and other bits and pieces, but all connected in some way with twentyfive years of the school's life.

Trivial Pursuits

"In 1975 Mrs. Best's 3H Science class was out in the garden checking soil temperatures with thermometers. I was working on the tennis courts at the time, when one of the class, Deborah Dunn, ran over to me to show me something interesting she had found buried in the garden. When I asked her what it was, she put a hand grenade into my hand. I nearly leapt a mile in the air, for the pin was half out! After I had regained my composure - or most of it - I took the grenade into the middle of the all-weather hockey pitch, told Mrs. Best's class to get as far away as possible, and sent someone to get Mr. Stirling and Mr. Boyd, both of whom, I reckoned, should know what to do about it. When they arrived, they told me to stay guarding the grenade, while they went off to phone for an Ammunition Technical Officer and his team, who had to travel all the way from Lisburn. When they arrived, they cleared the school, and evacuated houses in the nearby estate. After quite a while, the A.T.O., obviously someone with a scientific mind, decided the best way of dealing with the grenade was to hit it with a hammer! Then he declared it a dud! I did not get the heroic reception which I had expected from the pupils or staff or residents from the estate."

(Mervyn Higginson. Current Laboratory Technician)

"As Head Boy one of my duties was to propose a vote of thanks to the guest of honour at the certificates presentation in 1981. I completely forgot what I was going to say. I just stood there on the stage like an idiot for a few seconds (it seemed like hours), stammered and stumbled over a few words, and got off as quickly as possible. It was the most embarrassing moment of my life."

(Alex. Agnew. Pupil 1976-1982)

"When I taught in the Geography Department, I went on a number of field trips. In 1982 Mrs. Davison was on maternity leave, and by that time Mr. Ward had left to become Principal at Coleraine Boys High School. Thus it fell to me to lead the expedition, with the invaluable help of Miss Neill. Because the party was a mixed one, consisting of both boys and girls, it was considered essential that we be accompanied by a male member of staff, but no one was available to come away with us for a full four days. Therefore, it was agreed that every night a different male member of staff would motor up to Bushmills, stay the night and return to school the following morning. All went well, but by the third morning the catering manager at the residential centre was puzzled, and commented that Miss Neill and myself must work our colleagues too hard, and that the men obviously couldn't stick the pace."

(Helen McConnell. Staff 1976-1984)

My outstanding memory of Ballyclare is Mr. Stirling's eternal optimism. When I began teaching in 1973, there was the usual shortage of classrooms. The "temporary classrooms" were late arriving. My timetable worked like clockwork until the first Friday, when I was scheduled to be in one of these rooms. Mr. Stirling assured me: "There must be somewhere free, and it will only be for a few weeks." So I was banished to the Dining Hall, until I was evicted at the end of Period 3 for the ladies to set the tables, and then it was over to the school entrance hall, where I provided a French education for the postman, the milkman and any other passer by! The few weeks stretched into six months and when the classrooms arrived, even though they had no heat, it was sheer bliss!"

(Maureen Moore, née Neill. Staff 1973-1981)



Alex. Agnew (centre) with Mr. Stirling, Mr. Ward, Jacqueline McAfee (Head Girl) and Mrs. Montgomery on stage in the Assembly Hall on the occasion of Mr. Ward's departure to Coleraine Boys Secondary School in 1982.

"After fifteen years my memories are somewhat less than vivid, but a missing tooth and a bald scar on my upper forehead serve as a constant reminder of an incident which happened one spring day in 1971, when that most fanatical of Wolves supporters, Mr. Jack Middleton, took a group of Rural Biology students down to the Six Mile Water on an ecology outing. Unfortunately, Mr. Middleton had to return to school for something and, of course, some of the lads, losing interest in the scientific nature of the Six Mile, began to throw stones across the river. One split head and one broken tooth later, and I was being collected from the dentist by Mr. Lyons. Mr. Lyons was convinced that I had been fighting and did not believe that I have fallen on the river bank. I can now reveal to him that he was right! I did not fall on the bank, but I was not fighting either! I was just covering up for a very scared classmate. And who threw the stone? It's been a secret for fifteen years, but if a certain Martin Beattie is reading this magazine - revenge is sweet, however belated!"

(Willie Hutchinson. Pupil 1966-1971)

"I remember very clearly my first day at Ballyclare Secondary. I started in September 1968, entering 5th Form after spending some years at an all-girls school in Ballymena. To my surprise, I found I wasn't the only new pupil in the class. Annabel Taylor from Templepatrick was also just new to the school that day. Thinking of Annabel reminds me of the occasion she passed her driving test. As a present her parents gave her a Fiat 126, which was actually little bigger than a bubble car. Often on a Monday lunchtime several of us would pile into the car, and Annabel would scoot up to McClelland's Market Yard in order to catch a glimpse of a young man she was keen on, a wealthy farmer named Tom. Annabel would swoon when she saw him, but I don't think he ever noticed her, so busy was he eyeing up the stock of the four-legged variety. We used to write our own lyrics about Annabel and Tom and sing them to pop tunes of the day. Marlene Waddell, Barbara McFarlane and I would sing them as Annabel blushed".

(Linda Quail. Pupil 1968-70)



Margaret Mayne, Marlene Waddell and Barbara McFarlane in 1969.

"I remember all the football trips I made to Liverpool, both as a pupil and a former pupil. One year Allan Burnim bought a really cheap watch in St. John's Market. He was very proud of it, showing it off at every available opportunity, and telling us all the "exact time" every couple of minutes. We got sick of hearing about this great bargain. By the next day, the watch appeared to be going slow, and soon it stopped altogether. All the lads then proceeded to torment "Burney" by asking him the time, until he got so fed up, he threw the "bargain" away".

(Clarke Jenkins. Pupil 1973-1978)



Allan Burnim on the Liverpool football tour in 1980 when he bought the watch. Inset: Clarke Jenkins.

"I enjoyed most things at school, but I never really became involved in the 'arty' side of school life - choirs, plays, public speaking and that sort of thing - at least, until 4th Year. I don't remember how I came to get involved, but one minute I was talking to a couple of teachers and the next I was being measured for a costume in a school play. I don't think I got the part on artistic merit. I think it had more to do with the fact that I was so tall. The costume turned out to be green, and soon I had the nickname 'Jolly Green Giant'. I'm sure the Giant in 'Jack and the Beanstalk' wasn't supposed to be jolly. I enjoyed taking part, and would certainly do it all again if I had the chance.

"Another outstanding event in my school career wasn't quite so jolly. We were carrying out an experiment in Science. I don't know how it happened, but somehow we must have mixed the wrong chemicals, and we didn't quite get the chemical reaction we were expecting. The lab. filled with acid, choking smoke and very quickly emptied, as everyone made a dive for the door, teachers included. When the smoke cleared, we got back to work, with no harm done."

(Richard Coyle. Pupil 1980-1985)

They Don't Write Them Like This Any More



Are you a music lover? You are? Then read no further! On the day Ballyclare Secondary School opened - 6th September 1961 - the Top Ten best-selling single records were:

1. "Johnny Remember Me" — John Leyton
2. "You Don't Know" — Helen Shapiro
3. "Reach For The Stars/Climb Every Mountain" — Shirley Bassey
4. "Romeo" — Petula Clarke
5. "Well I Ask You" — Eden Kane
6. "Halfway to Paradise" — Billy Fury



Billy Fury

7. "A Girl Like You" — Cliff Richard and the Shadows
8. "Ain't Gonna Wash For A Week" — Brook Brothers
9. "Cupid" — Sam Cooke
10. "Time" — Craig Douglas

"One of the great triers in all sports was James Kelly. He was particularly keen on cross-country running, but was willing to have a go at other sports as well. One day - it would have been around the middle of the seventies - one of the school basketball teams was playing an important game against Glengormley High School. For reasons best known to himself, James was wearing his jersey back to front. This may have confused him, for he began the game by scoring the first points into his own basket! However, we went on to win. Clearly our tactics had confused the opposition."

(Mr. Lyons. Current Staff)

"My days at Ballyclare Secondary are full of happy memories. I remember the excitement of being among the first pupils of the new school. It seemed enormous after Doagh Primary. However, we soon settled down and "getting lost" became a thing of the past. In my fourth and final year I became Head Girl. Unfortunately I have lost contact with most of my friends at school, although I have been back a couple of times since I left. On one of these occasions I was asked to give some of the senior girls a talk about nursing. I remember being very nervous, but I think they found it interesting."

(Joan Kerr, née Todd. Pupil 1961-1965)

"I have fond memories of a particular Geography field trip. It consisted of three days climbing mountains and trudging along river beds. Climbing Lurigethan was a nightmare, but coming down was easy. We slid down on the clip-boards thoughtfully supplied by the Geography Department! Miss Harvey, now Mrs. Davison, had a nasty experience with a fence - a case of picking a point higher than she thought."

(Stephen Wright. Pupil 1969-1974)

"My final year at Ballyclare Secondary is a memorable one for many reasons. Apart from the comic capers enjoyed by my 6th Form schoolmates, I am grateful I was given the opportunity to study for A Levels. Unfortunately, because of the poor employment prospects nowadays, many young people think that qualifications are worthless, but education is an easy weight to carry, so make the most of it while you have the chance."

(Sonia Johnston. Pupil 1976-1983)

"The only time I was ever caned was during Mrs. Sloan's science class. All the girls had been chattering, so as a punishment we were all lined up alongside each other, hands exposed, and an old curtain rail was the offensive weapon. Julia Hill and I thought we were smart holding our hands beneath the level of the rest - naturally we found this very funny! But naturally Mrs. Sloan did not, and we received a few lashes to our hindquarters because we failed to learn from our previous mistake!"

(Isobel Kidd, née Hollinger. Pupil 1972-1978)

"A certain Paul McCammond, who at that time was one of the better rugby players in the school, arrived at the P.E. room before a vital rugby match complaining of a sore leg. With great healing powers Mr. Blair and I treated him with massage and "the magic spray". Not only was Paul fit to play in the game - he also scored a try! Little did he know it was no magic spray we'd used, but the air freshener from our room!"

"My worst moment at Ballyclare Secondary School was the day I came out of the staffroom to see Mrs. Hull reversing into my gleaming, almost new, Ford Fiesta! It nearly broke my heart!"

(Billy McAlister. Staff 1979-85)

"My school days were not particularly eventful, but on one particular occasion my heart stood still. I was playing snooker in the Senior Pupils' Common Room. The cue ball fell on the floor, and I lifted it and threw it back. Well, I meant to! Anyway, it missed and hit the window. But my luck held and the window didn't break."

(David McAree. Pupil 1978-1984)

"I was always very keen on sport at school, and played basketball and soccer for the school teams. It was customary, on the day of a match, to attend a team meeting at break so the the players could get signed out on the attendance sheet. One day the teacher who looked after us signed us out on the sheets for 2.30 p.m. After the meeting was over, by careful use of a rubber and pen, my mates and I managed to change the time we were supposed to get out of class to 1.30 p.m. So when this time arrived, out of class we got, but no one seemed to know how to spend the extra hour's freedom we had so skilfully arranged for ourselves. Panic set in. There was nothing for it but to hide in the boys' toilets. What a great way to spend time - five of us crammed into one cubicle, frightened to speak in case our small deception was discovered! At 2.30 p.m. we came out gratefully. It was an experience never to be repeated. Even the most boring lesson would have been better than this."

(John Robinson. Pupil 1973-1979)

"I was fortunate enough to own a motorcycle, which I rode to school, and one afternoon, after a cross-country training session with Mr. Platt, he requested a lift down the street. I was amazed by his confidence! The journey began in front of school and, I was told, attracted some strange looks as a blue blazered motorcyclist, with a member of staff on pillion, sped off up the drive. This was the least of my worries, as I discovered on turning the first corner. Mr. Platt had never ridden pillion before and was quite nervous - perhaps rigid is a better word! Fortunately we managed to keep upright, just about, with no thanks to Mr. Platt, who upon dismounting said he would never repeat the experience again!"

(Kenny McBride. Pupil 1967-1972)

"I shall never forget the time Diane Caldwell (nee Coleman) and I were on hockey tour with the girls in Edinburgh. It was in the years before Marks & Spencer's had a branch in Belfast, and we had a shopping spree in M&S in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, Mrs. Caldwell's sweater wasn't the right size and we had to take it back a couple of days later. To get the sweater exchanged Diane had to fill in a slip with her name and address on it. As we came out of the front door of the shop we were stopped by two men - no less than plain clothes detectives! After they had questioned us for a long time, they seemed satisfied all was in order. But with our accents and Northern Ireland address, we had been suspected of being terrorists! The detectives explained we had been very lucky. Normally they arrested suspects first - and ask questions later!"

(Jennifer Dickey, née Brown. Staff 1971-1980)

"During a History lesson (my favourite subject, by the way), I was unable to answer a question. As a punishment Mr. Todd told me to play the rest of the class a tune on my flute, which I still had with me after a music lesson earlier in the day. I was rather embarrassed, and my playing was not all it might have been. John Beggs thought my discomfort so funny he began to laugh, so Mr. Todd suggested John might like to dance to my tune. Even more embarrassed than I was, he did so. Everyone fell about. He never criticised my playing again, at least not in History class!"

(Terry Bell. Pupil 1977-1982)

The Price Was Right!

If you were one of those pupils who started at Ballyclare Secondary School in 1961, a school blouse would have cost you nine shillings and sixpence (46p), a yard of material to make your school skirt was 8/6 (41p), while a school dinner could be had for 9d. (3½p). After a hard day at school, you might have relaxed in the evening in front of your black and white television from "Rentaset", costing 5/6 (27½p) per week for a 14 inch model or 10/- (50p) for a 17 inch set. On the other hand, you might have fancied a night out, in which case you could have had a ride on the "Chairs" at the May Fair for 6d (2½p), twisted the night away at a dance in the Abbey Hall for 2/6 (12½p) or taken in a film at the local cinema (There was one in Ballyclare twenty-five years ago) for 6d (2½p) in the front stalls, 1/6 (7½p) in the back stalls or 2/6 (12½p) in the balcony, from where you most likely would have poured your carton of inedible, runny ice-cream (3d, 6d or 9d) onto the people below.



Music lovers in 1961 could buy a single for the outrageous price of 6/4 (30p), and smokers (It didn't damage your health in those days, of course!) could happily choke on a packet of ten "Woodbine" for 1/3½ (6p), ten Gallaher's "Blues" for 1/11 (9½p) or an ounce of "Condor Sliced" for 4/9 (24p). Rich folks who were thinking of changing their cars could have purchased a 1961 Ford Popular for £485, a 1960 Vauxhall Victor for £545 or a 1960 Morris Minor for £525.



If you didn't have a car, you could have bought a return bus ticket from Ballyclare to Belfast for 2/6 (12½p). While up among the city slickers, you could have taken in lunch at the Robinson and Cleaver's Restaurant for 5/- (25p), before visiting Windsor Park to watch Linfield play Ards in the Ulster Cup. This would have set you back 2/- (10p), 2/6 (12½p) or, if you preferred to hooliganise sitting down, 4/- (20p) for the grandstand. The admission price at the boys' gate was 1/- (5p). There was no girls' gate, since there were no girls in those days. Back on the farm in Ballyclare, you would be selling lambs for £22/10/- each or your 9 cwt. bullock for £64/5/9.



If you were a teacher in Ballyclare Secondary School in 1961, you couldn't have afforded to do any of these things, since teachers' pay hadn't been invented yet.

What The Papers Said

The opening of the new school in Ballyclare on Wednesday, 6th September 1961 was reported in that evening's edition of "The Belfast Telegraph". The article stated: "Ballyclare's new intermediate school opened unofficially today. An official opening is expected to take place in May (It didn't!), when all building work has been completed. The £150,000 building has 28 classrooms. (It hadn't!) There are 18 teachers. (There weren't) There is a possibility that the Ulster Transport Authority will augment the normal service to carry many of the children from outside districts to the new school. Said the Headmaster this morning, 'Everything went off extremely smoothly.'"

Were you to have read any of the other pages in that edition of the "Tele", you would have seen that the weather forecast was for "Bright periods and scattered showers, with winds moderate and temperatures rather cool." Nothing changes, does it? It was also reported that James Young was pulling in the crowds at the Group Theatre, while Agatha Christie's "Witness For The Prosecution" at the Arts Theatre earned a rave review. If you scanned the T.V. page, you might have been tempted to stay in that evening and watch "Yorky" at 7.55 p.m., "Sportsview" at 8.25 p.m. and "Laramie" at 9.00 p.m. on B.B.C., or "Coronation Street" (7.30 p.m.), followed by "The Sophie Tucker Half Hour" on I.T.V. Cinema adverts included Rock Hudson and Kirk Douglas in "The Last Sunset" at the Gaumont (now the site of British Home Stores) and Brian Rix and Dora Bryan in "The Night We Got The Bird" at the Regent (now the New Vic). If you fancied a bit of culture, you could have popped along to the C.E.M.A. Gallery in Chichester Street to view the Rembrandt Exhibition, on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, representing "many aspects of Rembrandt's enormous output". So many Ballyclare folk went to see it that the town was empty that night.

International events reported by the "Telegraph" on 6th September 1961 differed little in substance from those happening twenty-five years on. "The leaders of twenty-five non-aligned countries met in Belgrade today," stated one piece, "to call on President Kennedy and Mr. Krushchev to make the most direct approaches to establish peace." The characters may have changed, but it's still the same set. Elsewhere in the world, Dr. Cheddi Jagan was sworn in as the first Premier of British Guiana, while Pakistan and Afghanistan broke off diplomatic relations.

Back home, the "Telegraph" reported that a junior minister was sent to tour the border areas, where violence had flared up, and then draw up a report for Westminster. Another one hundred men were paid off in the Belfast Shipyard, while the most recent road accident figures showed a sharp increase. Finally, Grace Emanuel and Patricia Mencavelli (later to gain international fame as Ron Atkinson and "Chopper" Harris) announced the commencement, on 18th September at 6.00 p.m., of their special autumn modelling classes, spotlighting their "Department and Charm Course for the Married Woman".

"No-one ever really appreciates school life until they are no longer a part of it. I loved school, and if I was offered the chance, I would do the five years all over again. My memories are of the "Top of the Form" quiz, a trip to Dublin to receive a prize for writing an essay on "Cross-Border Communication"; those really super Accounts homeworks for Mr. Waldron, and the day Mrs. Currie called me out of Accounts class to tell me I had been chosen as Head Girl. I was very lucky in that I was the last Head Girl to work under Mr. Stirling, a lovely man and a great Headmaster."

(Tracy Ireland. Pupil 1979-85)

"I started life in Ballyclare in a 1R class, and then moved to 2S at the beginning of my second year, so I got to know two lots of pupils. My favourite (and best!) subjects were Art and English. The thing that made the most impression on me was the teachers. Some teachers were simply teachers who taught courses, but the majority of the teachers in Ballyclare were more than just teachers - they were people! They came across to a class as real people with personalities, and we as pupils could identify with them. I think I learned more from these teachers, because I could talk to them, and not just about the subjects they taught. I certainly owe a lot to several of them. Best wishes from Australia!"

(Gavin McDowell. Pupil 1979-1985)

"I always remember my early days at Ballyclare Secondary, especially my Domestic Science class with Mrs. Montgomery. On my first day with Mrs. Montgomery I was sent to brush the store floor. After carefully completing my task, I lifted the rubbish and found a nice bin with what I thought said 'Floor' on the lid. Only after disposing of the rubbish did I discover it said 'Flour'. Hastily I removed the rubbish without telling anyone until many years later."

(Doreen McGookin, née Hill. Pupil 1961-1966)



Doreen Hill (1962)

"I loved my time at Ballyclare Secondary School - in fact, I wish I was still there. Our class was great, and the girls got on really well. Some of us still keep in touch, although a few of us now live in England. One of the things we always talk about when we get together is the weekend Miss Roberts took all the girls in our class (I think there were sixteen of us) to the school's outcentre at Parkmore. We slept in the bunk beds in the mobile part of the centre. We never had a minute all weekend, as there was so much to do - cooking, eating, going for walks in Glenariff Glen, different games and activities - even cleaning out the minibus. The weather was lovely, so we even did some sunbathing. It was brilliant, although I think poor Miss Roberts got very little sleep! My memories of Ballyclare are good ones. I would go back to our school again tomorrow."

(Maureen McConnell. Pupil 1972-1977)

"When the school began, the late Rev. Coulter of Ballyeaston taught Religious Education on a part-time basis. He was a great supporter of Ballyclare Comrades, and on one occasion during a match he became so excited that he had to light a cigarette. It was only during a break in play some minutes later that he discovered the reason why he wasn't inhaling the nerve-soothing smoke. He had been trying to light the weed's wrong end."

(Miss Hamilton. Current Office Staff)

"In 2nd Year I was not picked to be a Monitor, but I often wondered what it would be like to be one. So one day I 'borrowed' a Monitor badge and went on duty. I thought I was doing rather well, until the teacher in charge came round to check whether everything was all right. I wasn't on her list, and she wasn't amused. I was reprimanded and my badge removed. I'm sure now that she has long since forgotten about the incident, but for years afterwards. I always avoided her in school ... just in case!"

(Jennifer Moore. Pupil 1978-1983)

"I enjoyed Maths best at school, and even if I do say so myself, I was pretty good at it. I got on really well with my Maths teacher, which is probably why I have this on my conscience. I'm sure I did it to show off and prove I wasn't 'teacher's pet'. Looking back, it all seems really silly, but at the time ... well! Each day the Maths teacher had a set of algebra problems on the board ready for my class to get stuck into as soon as we arrived. I went in first and made a very minor alteration to the first problem. So minor the teacher never noticed, but serious enough to prevent the problem working out. I did this for several weeks without being caught. No one ever got past the first problem."

(Raymond Hill. Pupil 1971-1976)



The artist, James Wilson, attended Ballyclare Secondary between 1978 and 1983.

SO YOU THINK YOU REMEMBER THE SIXTIES?

If you attended Ballyclare Secondary in its early years, you will have been privileged to live the best years of your life in the "Swinging Sixties". How much can you remember of that time, the era of Harold Wilson, the mini-skirt, flower power and the Mersey sound? Here are some questions to test your knowledge of yesteryear, and we're offering £25 (one for every year of the school's life) to the person who gets the most correct answers. Just write them down on a piece of paper. (No official entry form is printed here, as you probably don't want to cut up the souvenir magazine), and post it to: The Editor, Silver Jubilee Magazine, Ballyclare Secondary School, Doagh Road, Ballyclare. The closing date for entries is 9th January 1987. The correct answers to the questions, and the name of the winner, will be printed in the first edition of "Newsbeat" in the New Year. Remember, you don't have to get all the answers right to win the £25 prize, nor do you have to be currently attending the school. So let's hear from you, and good luck!

1. In 1961 Yuri Gagarin achieved a first. What was it?
2. The Righteous Brothers had a Number 1 hit in 1965 with "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'". Which female singer reached Number 2 in the same year with the same song?
3. On 24th January 1965 one of the great British Prime Ministers died. Who was it?
4. Geoff Hurst is famous for scoring a hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup Final, but who scored England's other goal in their 4-2 victory over West Germany?
5. There is a connection between the two people pictured below. Name both, and say what the connection is.



6. In America in 1968 a former president's brother and a civil rights leader were both assassinated. Who were they?
7. The first James Bond movie was released in 1962. What was it called, and who played Bond?
8. In what year did the event described in the newspaper headline below occur?

Daily Mirror *How that deal - for people wanted*
ULSTER GUN BATTLES



Cheers in Bogsides as the British troops arrive

9. What comedy actor starred in and co-wrote the radio series, "I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again", and the television series, "At Last, The 1984 Show" and "Monty Python's Flying Circus"?
10. In 1967 a South African, Louis Washansky, received something from Christian Barnard. What?
11. Can you complete the names of the following Sixties pop groups?
 (a) Gerry and the _____
 (b) Brian Poole and the _____
 (c) Wayne Fontana and the _____
 (d) Freddie and the _____
 (e) Billy J. Kramer and the _____
12. Who was revealed as "The Third Man" in 1967?
13. In what television programme did the characters Minnie Caldwell and Martha Longhurst appear?
14. Who is the man pictured below left, and why was he in the news in 1965?



See Question 14



See Question 15

15. Name the actor pictured above right and the television role which made him famous.
16. On 8th February 1964 the front page of the Daily Mirror was headlined, "Yeah! Yeah! U.S.A.!" To what event was it referring?
17. Which country was invaded by the U.S.S.R. in August 1967?
18. In the Sixties he was known as Shane Fenton. What is he called today?
19. Why did Neil Armstrong achieve world-wide fame in July 1969?
20. Which city was divided in two when a wall was built in August 1961?

In the late seventies I played for what was one of the least successful school football teams in the history of mankind. That said, they were possibly the keenest bunch of boys who ever pulled on Ballyclare shirts. Among the stalwarts of the side over the years were Kyle Harvey, Martin Hurst, Charlie Campbell, Brian McCalmont, Colin Pennock, George McComb, Vernon Agnew and the Robinson brothers, Jim and John. In view of the fact that we won very few matches in four years, three quite unusual events stand out in my mind.

The first was the day when, as Under 15s, we beat Parkhall High School 8-0 in the Mid Antrim Cup. Nothing like this had happened to us before, nor did it ever happen again. George McComb scored five goals and Vernon Agnew three.

Then, in a game played at the end of the same season against Hopefield, the referee played an extra twenty minutes at the end of normal time to give George McComb the chance to break the record for most goals scored in a season by a Ballyclare Secondary School player. He didn't, and the game ended with both teams exhausted.

The best goal our team ever scored was against Glengormely High School when we were Under 13s. We were 6-0 down, and the manager played his trump card, bringing on "Supersub", Paul Johnston. The Glengormely goalkeeper miskicked a clearance to Paul who, standing 35 yards out, hit it first time on the half-volley. It screamed into the net! It was the only goal Paul ever scored, but what a cracker it was!

(Tommy Robinson. Pupil 1975-1981)

order new ones. Nor did they reveal the dreadful end of the tadpoles, which had had to resort to cannibalism, because I abandoned them in the classroom over the Easter holidays. Why on earth were we keeping tadpoles?"

(Sheela Speers. Staff 1963-1971)

"In 1974 my Geography class went on a field trip to Cushendall. We stayed at the local youth hostel, and in the evening the girls were detailed to make a meal. Kathryn Reid was rumoured to be an excellent cook, but what she served up - tinned peas and instant spuds - neither looked nor tasted too good. I complained loudly to Miss Harvey, who told me not to worry. She would put things right. She went away and returned a moment or two later with a bottle of H.P. sauce, which she completely emptied all over my meal. "Try it now, Nigel," she said. "It'll taste so much better."

On another occasion, after everyone was supposed to be in bed, John Warwick and I took an alarm clock and put it outside the door of the room being used by the teachers. We had set it to go off at 3 o'clock in the morning, but due to a technological cock-up, it went off before we had even made it back to our own dormitory. Seconds after we had got into our beds, in came Mr. Ward. He shone a torch into various faces, apparently to see who was asleep and who wasn't. As it hapened, Jim Gault, who really had been asleep, was startled by the torch beam and woke up, only to be accused of being the culprit. Protesting, he was led away. I'm ashamed to admit neither John Warwick nor myself ever confessed our guilt."

(Nigel Beattie. Pupil 1971-1976)



Tommy Robinson's team. Back row: Charlie Campbell, Brian McCloskey, Kyle Harvey, Tom Todd, Vernon Agnew, Brian McCalmont, Jim Buchanan. Front row: Jim Robinson, George McComb, Tommy Robinson, Nigel Jenkins, Martin Hurst, William Jackson.

"I remember in the mid-sixties that one pupil, Chris Montgomery, unwittingly caused Mrs. Sloan and myself much amusement. We remarked, after a staff/pupils football match, that Chris had good legs. This comment outraged some male members of staff who, in those days before the women's movement surfaced, clearly believed that it was quite alright for them to admire good-looking girls, but quite improper for females (even old, married ladies) to make such observations about young men. We kept our views on such matters to ourselves after that.

Throughout my career I have taught lots of great people, but the 2A class of 1963/64 were top of my all-time hit parade. They were the best class I ever had. Apart from being bright, hard-working and fun, they were very up-to-date (Philip Adams had the first Beatle haircut in the school!) and very, very discreet. They never did tell about the day we hid all the boring History textbooks in the top cupboard in Room 8 so that I could say they were lost and

Alfie McClean was the school's first caretaker. For many years he has been well known in Ballyclare for his verse, and we are pleased to present some lines, specially written by him for this publication, on our Silver Jubilee.

Twenty five years has come and gone.
The next twenty five years has had its dawn.
Here the pupils get phinistoul (educated),
In Ballyclare Secondary School.

The teaching staff are dedicated,
To see that all are educated.
This is indeed the daily rule,
In Ballyclare Secondary School.

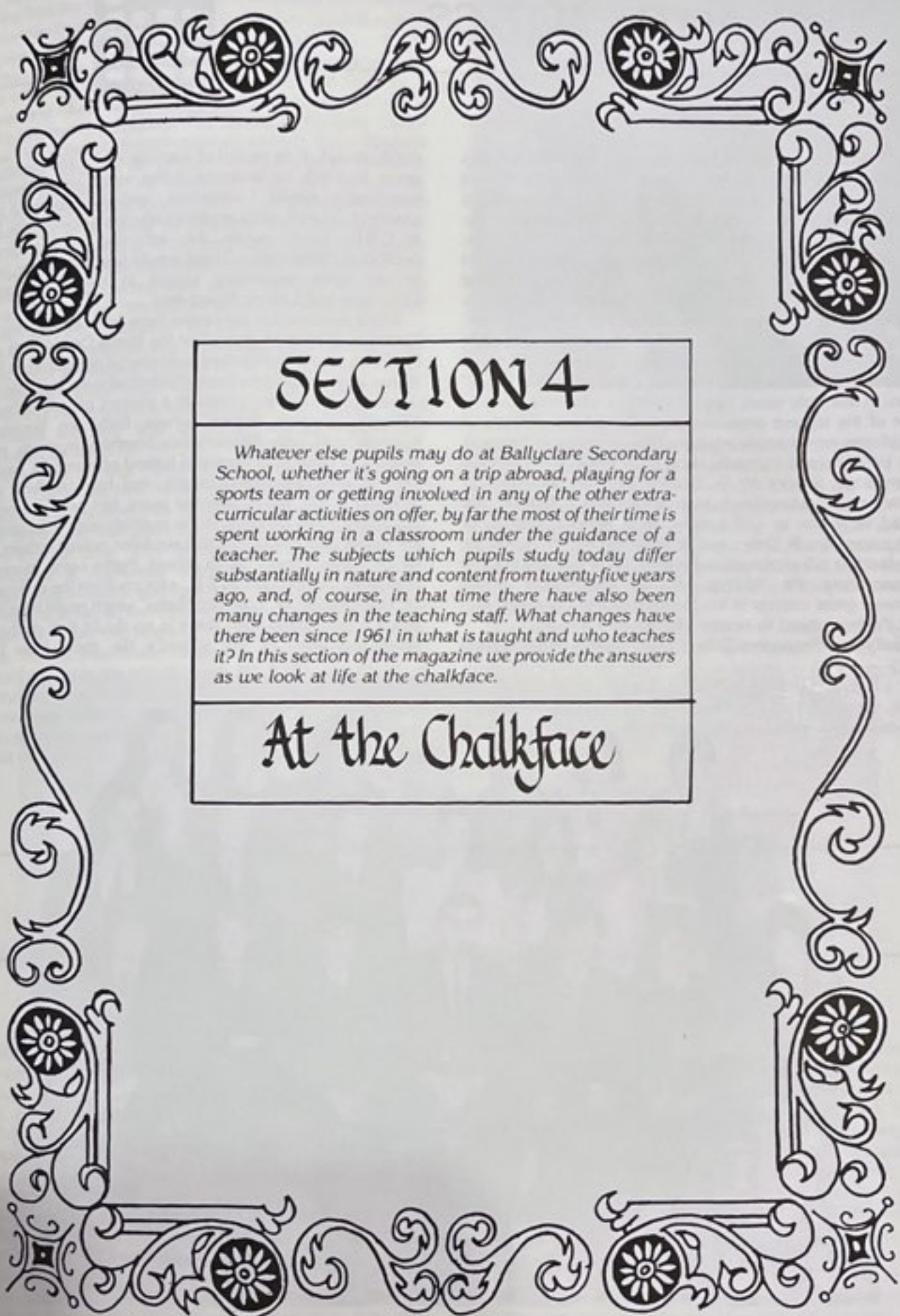
The first headmaster, Major Stirling M.C.,
Was a man of integrity,
Said he, "For pupils rich or poor,
My office has an open door."

The senior mistress, Miss McDowell,
Made music out of the piano roll.
And for the school's annual play,
Miss McDowell worked night and day.

The new headmaster Mr. McCrea.
A brilliant man, what more to say.
His time and talents he ever spends,
To make pupils and staff lasting friends.

The pen is mightier than the sword,
Silence better than an angry word.
The essence of the golden rule,
Is taught in Ballyclare Secondary School.

Memory's thread is today's fabric.



SECTION 4

Whatever else pupils may do at Ballyclare Secondary School, whether it's going on a trip abroad, playing for a sports team or getting involved in any of the other extra-curricular activities on offer, by far the most of their time is spent working in a classroom under the guidance of a teacher. The subjects which pupils study today differ substantially in nature and content from twenty-five years ago, and, of course, in that time there have also been many changes in the teaching staff. What changes have there been since 1961 in what is taught and who teaches it? In this section of the magazine we provide the answers as we look at life at the chalkface.

At the Chalkface

MATHEMATICS



In 1961 when the school opened, the Mathematics Department was led by Mr. Tommy Mayne. When he was appointed Vice-Principal in 1963, he decided to relinquish his Head of Department role, which was taken over by Mr. Robinson, who has held the position ever since. Of course, Mr. Mayne continued to teach Maths with great energy and enthusiasm until his retirement in 1980. It was with great sadness that his colleagues learnt of his death earlier this year. Another founder member of staff, Mr. Tommy Gilmer, whose main subject was Social Studies, also taught Mathematics for many years. His recent death was also much regretted by his friends on the staff. Other members of staff who, in the early years, helped establish what has become one of the biggest departments in the school were Mr. J. Middleton, now happily enjoying his retirement in England, Mr. I. McClelland, currently Head of Science at Monkstown Community School, Mr. W. Gordon, who has become Vice-Principal of Newtownbreda High School, Mrs. B. Boland, now Head of Maths in Cullybackey High School, Mrs. E. D. Ferguson, Mrs. B. Sloan, and Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. McKnight, the last two still on the school staff, but now full-time in other departments. Mr. Stirling, who as Headmaster always showed great interest in the Mathematics Department, also taught the subject to several classes over the years.

Ballyclare Secondary School Mathematics Department is

rightly proud of its record of success in the last twenty-five years. In 1985, for example, it has some record-breaking examination results. Twenty-four candidates achieved pass grades at O Level, while another forty-one gained Grade One at C.S.E. Seven pupils also achieved pass grades in Additional Mathematics. These results were better than those in any other secondary school in the North-Eastern Education and Library Board area.

Whilst examination successes have been noteworthy, Mr. Robinson is keen to stress that the Maths Department sees itself as a caring department, and special programmes have always been devised for those children who are less able. Ten years ago the school joined in a project organised by the Schools' Support Service, where Ballyclare Secondary teachers met with Mathematics teachers from six other secondary schools in Northern Ireland on a regular basis to look at what was being taught, and how teachers were teaching it. The result, over the years, has been a renewed enthusiasm and devotion to the mathematical education of the pupils, and this seems to have been noted by them. In a recent survey conducted in school, Maths came second in popularity, beaten only by P.E., a far cry from the comments of "I hate Maths" or "I can't do Maths" which might have been heard a generation ago. There is no doubt that during the twenty-five years of the school's life, there have been



Mr. Robinson and the 4th Form Mathematics group which went on an educational visit to the Prudential Assurance Company in 1967.

enormous changes in the teaching of Mathematics. We have come a long way from the rote learning of Euclid and Euler to the use of sophisticated calculators and computers. Today, as the Nineties fast approaches, the emphasis has switched to investigational work by pupils for the new G.C.S.E., which requires individual teaching/learning strategies.

The success of individual pupils in Mathematics would take more space to record than is available here. However, it is pleasing to note that among former Mathematics pupils there are many graduates. For example, Anabelle Taylor (now Mrs. Anabelle Scott) obtained an M.Sc. from Queen's University, and is at present completing a Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies. Mr. Robinson says that he and his colleagues constantly meet former pupils who have excelled themselves in a variety of different fields, ranging from architecture to farming. There are estate agents, secretaries, air hostesses, nurses and bank officials, all of whom have learnt their basic mathematics on the top floor of Ballyclare Secondary School. "We are proud of each and every one of them," says Mr. Robinson. "We trust we have given them a love for what is, after all, one of the most useful and, in many ways, most interesting subjects in the curriculum."

The Maths Department has been very lucky over twenty-five years to have had teachers of such quality. Today it has a dedicated teaching staff of eleven which, besides Mr. Robinson, includes Mr. McCrea, Mr. McComb (the new Vice-Principal), Mr. Stewart (Senior Counsellor), Miss McWilliam, Mrs. M. Campbell, Mrs. Treon, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Dunlop, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Younger. Mrs. Best, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Kane and Mrs. Scott have also given their services to the Department from time to time. With regular planning meetings, and attendance at numerous in-service training courses, the present Mathematics staff maintain their high standards.

This article has so far referred to current teaching staff and those who were members of the Department in the early days. Tribute should also be paid to those who served the school mainly in the middle years. Mr. J. Hill is now Head of Mathematics of a secondary school in Tasmania; Mr. W. Brown has become an Advisor with the South-Eastern Education and Library Board; Mr. W. Morrison is currently Head of Computer Studies in Dunclug High School; Mrs. J.



Mrs. M. Campbell

Chesney teaches Maths in Ballyclare High School; Mr. B. Hoey is enjoying a happy retirement; Mr. W. Hazlett has become branch manager in a building society; Mr. R. Millar has, for some years, been Coaching Development Officer with the Irish Football Association; Mr. W. McAlister is now teaching in Cavehill Primary School; Mr. J. Suthers teaches in Ballymena; Mrs. J. Lowry left us only last June, and Mrs. G. Young still manages some part-time teaching in between raising three lively children.

The importance of Mathematics in modern society is absolutely vital. In Ballyclare Secondary School it is compulsory for all pupils and is taught to all levels. Over twenty-five years, some would suggest, no subject has changed more, and for the better. Today all pupils are given every opportunity to attain full mathematical potential. Here's to the next twenty-five!

REMEDIAL



When Ballyclare Secondary School opened its doors in September 1961, the "slow learners" were placed in a class called 3B2. There was no remedial specialist in charge at the time. Pupils were taught by Mrs. Jean Carson, Miss Joan McDowell, Mrs. Vina Ferguson and Mr. Tommy Gilmer. Twenty-five years ago the special class was housed in the main school building. Later, as the school expanded, the pupils who were in need of special help were based in a mobile classroom beside the tennis courts.

Mrs. Edith Morrison joined the staff in 1966. She had a great interest in the children in the special classes, and the pupils were fond of her. They greatly missed her when she retired in 1969. She was followed by Mrs. Phyllis Brown who also took a particular interest in remedial work. In 1971 Mrs. Brown went on to join the staff of the North Eastern Board's Peripatetic Service.

On the 1st March 1971 Mrs. Dennis took up the position which she still holds to-day, that of Head of the Remedial Department. She was helped on a part-time basis by Mrs. Daphne Mears and Mr. Ben Hoey who, along with other members of staff, gave generously of their time and energy to provide a worthwhile education for those boys and girls in need of special help. The Remedial Department was fortunate in the early seventies to have the use of a Co. Antrim Education Committee bus driven by Mr. Tommy Weatherup. This bus was at the disposal of the Secondary School every morning until it was time to take Primary pupils home. Mrs. Dennis and her pupils had some very exciting educational trips to places of interest. The lighthouse at Ferris' Point on Islandmagee was a particular favourite. Occasionally day trips were arranged to Scotland, and these are still remembered by those who took part. Perhaps some will be

reading this. Says Mrs. Dennis: "Remember those boys who took a 'short cut' off the boat via the car deck and who were waiting for me when I descended the gangway, firmly in the hands of the Stranraer Police? I'll never forget their faces. I don't think they were ever so glad to see their teachers as then! Anyway they got off with a warning and we went on to have a marvellous day." The Grove Baths was another favourite haunt, for in those days there were very few leisure centres. Mrs. Sloan used to accompany Mrs. Dennis and her classes to the baths on occasions, and both ladies have happy memories of those years. Mrs. Dennis says, "We were very sorry when spending cuts and re-organisation meant we lost the use of 'our' bus and driver." About the same time Mrs. Mears left the school to pursue her career in other fields of education. At present she is a Lecturer in the Larne College of Further Education.



Mrs. Dennis

In 1978 the Schools Support Service began to operate under the able direction and guidance of John Malone. This was a school-based staff and curriculum development project, financed by the Northern Ireland Department of Education and local Education and Library Boards during the period 1978-1982. Thirty-three schools took part and Ballyclare Secondary was one of them. Our school was fortunate to have the assistance of Miss F. Crowe as Field Officer working on English and Mrs. M. Otterburn working on Mathematics. Under their guidance an individualised reading programme was established for all pupils with a reading age under 9.5 years, and a numeracy programme for those pupils with an arithmetic age of under 9.0 years. It was recognised that reading development included all children and not just those in need of remedial help. Therefore an attempt is now made to provide motivation, for example through class libraries, so that children can read widely at their own reading age and interest level. Mrs. Dennis says, "We were greatly saddened by the untimely death of John Malone in February 1982. We share his commitment to the educational interests and needs of every child, regardless of class, creed or ability."

The work of the Remedial Department to-day is shared by various members of staff who help Mrs. Dennis willingly in the literacy programme. Pupils are no longer placed in a special class. When they enter the school they are tested to obtain their reading and arithmetic ages, and an individualised programme is devised for those in need of extra help. They are withdrawn from class in small groups until they progress sufficiently so that they no longer require individual help.

Mrs. Dennis believes that a happy child learns more easily, and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere is conducive to educational progress. The work of the Remedial Department is based on concern for the individual child, recognition of individual learning needs and practical assistance in meeting them. It provides stimulating and exciting materials, reading games, electronic equipment such as Synchrofax Audio Page and S.R.A. Reading Kits. Mrs. Dennis is always happy to receive visits from past pupils and looks forward to seeing them.

HOME ECONOMICS



In the summer months of 1961 two ladies arranged by telephone to meet to do some shopping. They had not seen each other before, so detailed descriptions of appearances were given. Accurate they must have been, for the two met at the agreed place and time, recognising each other without difficulty. The ladies were Florence Montgomery and Nora Dougan, and both had just been appointed to the Domestic Science Department of Ballyclare Secondary School. The shopping session to a Belfast hardware store was to buy all the equipment for the new kitchens, so that they would be ready for use in September. Mission accomplished, the ladies enjoyed a relaxing cup of tea, and thus began a friendship that was to last for many years.

Come September, and all was indeed ready. Mrs. Montgomery, having had previous teaching experience in Ballyclare High School, had been appointed Head of the new Department, a position she was to hold for the next twenty-two years. She and Miss Dougan excitedly began the task of

preparing their new pupils for Junior and Senior Certificate and the College of Preceptors examinations. Mrs. Montgomery says that she clearly remembers the enthusiasm for this "new" subject shown by girls like Netta Stewart, Annabelle Stewart, Deirdre Saunders, Beryl Biggar, Lorna Mairs and Doreen Hill, and the feverish work they put in for the exams. As the Domestic Science Department grew, the team was augmented by Miss Joan Smith, by which time Miss Dougan was making plans to get married. Girls in her Needlework class, such as Diane Coleman, Anne Beattie and Lucilla McConnaghie, were probably among the first to realise who the groom was, a teacher who worked on the other side of the corridor. One day an Inspector had remarked on this teacher, asking Miss Dougan, "Who is that creature down the corridor dangling on the end of a pipe?" Miss Dougan took great delight in the Inspector's embarrassment as she told him that the young man was her intended husband. Soon Miss Dougan was married, and

became Mrs. Connor McKnight. Mr. McKnight was persuaded shortly afterwards to give up his pipe.

In 1969 Miss Lynda Sherrard joined the Department. Three years later she was chosen as a representative of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Northern Ireland to visit Australia for six months, and when she returned many classes were treated to slide shows of the trip and songs she had learnt on it. In Australia she had visited the outback, where she saw Domestic Science classes being taught in very primitive conditions and with very basic equipment. The children, however, were very resourceful and adaptable. Not long after her return to Ballyclare, Miss Sherrard married a teacher from Parkhall High School, Mr. James Currie.

Miss Mary Hutchingson became the youngest member of the Domestic Science team in 1973. She was, in fact, a former pupil of the school before going to Gamerville Domestic Science College to complete her teacher training. Between 1972 and 1982 Mrs. Margaret Scott taught in the Department on a part-time basis. Both she and Mrs. McKnight, who had retired from full-time duties shortly after her marriage, have been excellent substitute teachers.

In 1977 Mrs. Montgomery became Senior Mistress. The new Head of Department was Miss Smith, while Miss Skelly replaced Mrs. Montgomery on her retirement in 1983. Miss Skelly had just graduated from the University of Ulster with a 1st Class Honours Degree. This in itself was something of an innovation, for the subject has only become available at degree level in recent years.

One other very important member of the Department is Mrs. Henrietta Cameron. Some people reading this article will know her better as Henrietta Millar. Now the Department Technician, Henrietta can remember clearly the day the school opened, for she was one of the new pupils, scared and excited. She recalls that her Class Teacher, the late Sidney Astbury, soon put her and her classmates at their ease. Since joining the Domestic Science staff, she has become very

much the "Girl Friday" of the Department.

When the school opened in 1961 there were two Cookery rooms and one Needlework room, but within a few years this accommodation proved insufficient, and in 1976 the Needlework room was converted into a multi-purpose kitchen. As part of a new extension to the school another room was built to include a dining area, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. It continues to be used to teach housecraft. The Department still tries to keep its kitchens up to date, since today's homes have modern kitchens and appliances, and pupils must have the opportunity to work in similar surroundings in school.

Over the years Domestic Science has seen many changes, not least in its name, which is now Home Economics. The content of the subject now covers all aspects of life in the home, and is designed to prepare young people to adapt to, and make use of, in a constructive way, the changes in kitchen technology, eating habits, shopping trends and social attitudes. Miss Smith comments: "We have seen the equipment of the early sixties being replaced by up-to-date modern equipment. In fact in 1961 one of the items used for laundrywork was a washboard and wringer — now we have an electronic washing machine and tumble dryer. There is, of course, a limit to the equipment provided by the Education Boards, and we were very fortunate to acquire recently one of the latest microwave ovens and a food processor."

Home Economics has often been considered a "girls' subject", but with changing social and family trends, men and boys are just as likely to be found preparing meals or bathing the baby. With this in mind all 1st Year pupils now take the subject, and boys can, if they wish, continue to do so on through the school. Nevertheless attitudes are slow to change, and as yet only a limited number take the subject through to C.S.E. or O Level. It is hoped that in the years ahead more boys will continue with Home Economics after 1st Form.



Miss Dougan (right) in 1963 with Mr. McKnight (left), Mrs. Montgomery and Mr. Crymble.

In every school examinations play an important role, and over the years the Department has entered hundreds of pupils for C.S.E., O Level and, occasionally, A Level exams. Girls such as Irene Johnston, Valerie Stirling, Pamela Rea, Susan Reid, Sharon Gardiner and Anne Esler all continued to higher education in the Polytechnic, Stranmillis or the Royal Victoria Hospital on the basis of their A Levels. A new subject introduced at examination level by the Department in 1980 was Child Care, although as far back as 1969 Domestic Science had the local Health Visitor, Mrs. Kyle visiting school regularly to prepare pupils in Child Care for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Her successor, Mrs. Anne Rohu from the local health centre, is now a familiar figure in the school, assisting with Child Care classes and providing expert help and guidance to the girls.



Miss Smith (left), Head of Home Economics, and her predecessor, Mrs. Montgomery.

One of the main aims of the Department over the years has been to generate an interest in homemaking which will take young people, whether they follow examination courses or not, through their lives ahead. Over the years many pupils have passed through the Department, and girls such as Jessie Milligan, Kaye Wilson, Yvonne Hanna and Lois Paisley all spring to mind as capable in Needlework and Cookery. One pupil in particular who is clearly remembered by Mrs. Montgomery and Miss Smith is Beth Ewing. Beth was born with arms which ended just above the elbow and with no hands or fingers. Yet there was nothing in practical work which Beth could not do, including threading a needle and sewing with it. She had such a cheery spirit, and nothing daunted her. Nowadays, when girls say that they are unable to do some practical task, Miss Smith tells us, "A picture of Beth flashes into my mind. She really was a marvellous example to others."

More recently a group of pupils, including June Herron, Angela Beggs, Shona Cross, David Hamill, Cheryl Conway and Elizabeth Adair entered a nationwide competition in which their skill in producing a recipe and design for a special



Nichola Clyde preparing a meal as part of her O level practical examination in May 1985.

cake resulted in the school winning a microwave oven. Then in 1985 Janet Boyd was chosen as the Northern Ireland finalist in the N.I.E.S. "Cook Electric" series, and brought a Magimix Food Processor to the school as a result. Yet another of Miss Hutchinson's pupils, Janette Neeson, took third place in the "Junior Cook of the Year" final, while Patricia McGookin is in the 1986 final. Also in 1986 Lavinia Murdoch was a winner in the "New Zealand Lamb" series.

One venture which Miss Smith and her colleagues have cause to remember was their contribution to the outcentre in Parkmore Forest in the early seventies. Miss Smith recalls: "We were responsible for the interior decoration, and furnishing and equipping the rooms and kitchen. For quite a few months we seemed to be into papering, painting and D.I.Y. to such an extent that both girls and staff never seemed to get the paint cleaned from their hands. We made curtains and soft furnishings in the school to take to the outcentre and begged as much furniture as we could possibly get for it. The work was all done with an opening date in mind and we heaved a sigh of relief when everything was ready for the first occupants."

Miss Smith says that the emphasis placed on certain aspects of Home Economics today has changed: "Needlework has assumed less importance, partly because of the availability of cheaper clothes and soft furnishings. Much more emphasis is placed on the change in eating habits. Now we are learning to adapt to the current dietary recommendations of eating less fat and sugar and more fibre. This means, in fact, that what we taught pupils in this subject in the sixties and early seventies has been completely changed. Many of today's pupils have parents who went through the School, and now at Parents' Nights we have

people such as Elizabeth Kenny, Anne Neeson, Beth McIlwaine and Doreen Hill all commenting on the completely different topics taught. Our examination papers are sprinkled with words such as cholesterol, high fibre and polyunsaturated fats. Who knows? Perhaps in another 25 years we will be encouraging pupils to eat lots of white bread, fats or sugar foods".

Traditionally, homemaking and cooking have been skills handed down within families from mother to daughter. And indeed what better way to learn. Sadly this has become increasingly a thing of the past. Modern technology, high powered advertising and the pull of commercialism have had their effect. Home Economics in schools today has adapted to these changes. Responsible and healthy eating habits, combined with the best use of today's technology and

products, is the path down which Ballyclare Secondary School pupils of the present tread.

For the past nine years Miss Smith has carried on the excellent stewardship of the Home Economics Department which Mrs. Montgomery began. She sets her colleagues high standards in her planning and organisation. She is keen to keep in step with modern developments, and encourages her staff to participate in all useful in-service training courses. Anyone who has ever attended any school function will have appreciated the meticulous organisation and presentation of food, which always contributes to the success of these events. It is hard to think of another teacher so well-respected by her colleagues. The high reputation of the Home Economics Department is a tribute to her abilities.

SCIENCE



The Science Department had three full-time members when the school opened twenty-five years ago — Mr. Jack Middleton, Mr. Ian McClelland and Mr. Jim Parker. The Principal, Mr. Stirling, who was a chemistry graduate, also taught a little Science in the early days. The Department was housed in Labs 1 and 2, the old Room 8 (now the Computer Room) and the old greenhouse (now a store). Of the three original full-time staff, Mr. Parker left after eighteen months for Kelvin Secondary School in Belfast, and is now Headmaster of Larne High School, but the other two remained at Ballyclare Secondary School for many years, and both are still remembered for their individual styles and unique contributions.

Mr. Middleton had been in the Fleet Air Arm during the 2nd World War, and he brought his wide experience of life to the classroom. His teaching was attention-holding and relevant. Most former pupils remember him as a strict disciplinarian, but with a warm personality and a keen sense of humour. A great pipe-smoker and fanatical supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, he was an inspiring Head of the Science Department between 1961 and 1972. Under his guidance Ballyclare Secondary became a pilot school for the Nuffield General Science Scheme which, for the time, was quite revolutionary in its approach to teaching science to pupils in Forms 1, 2 and 3, tending as it did to apply science to everyday life. It was thus much more practical in its approach than Science as it continued to be taught in other schools. It was a very great undertaking, which involved Mr. Middleton and his colleagues in much time and effort. It eventually led to the introduction of S.C.I.S.P. (Schools' Council Integrated Science Project) in Ballyclare Secondary. This was a double certificate examination, which was offered by the Science Department along with O Level and, later, C.S.E., a far cry from the old days of Junior Certificate, Junior Tech., and the College of Preceptors exams. Running parallel, courses were now offered in Physics with Chemistry, Biology and Human Biology.

Mr. Middleton, a man of great vision, was responsible for laying out the school gardens, the planting of trees around the school perimeter and the advancement of rural science within the school. Those who knew him all have their favourite Jack Middleton memory. Mrs. Sloan, for example, shared Lab 1 with him, and still has vivid recollections of trying to teach science while Mr. Middleton sterilized soil at



Mr. Middleton

the back of the room or held violin lessons in the adjoining greenhouse. When he left Ballyclare in 1972 to take up a post in a comprehensive school in York, the Science Department lost a fine teacher and the children a good friend.

Mr. McClelland was a stalwart of the Science Department for even longer than Mr. Middleton. For fifteen years he contributed much to the advancement of Science teaching in the school. A dedicated teacher, he also found time to act as an Ollar House Teacher, Year Teacher, school football coach and Co-ordinator of Religious Education in the days before it had a Head of Department. He was involved in the foundation of the Scripture Union, but is best remembered for his end-of-term lost property sales, which were legendary. In 1976 he was appointed Head of Science at the new Monkstown Community School.

The Science Department recruited three further members of staff in the sixties. September 1962 saw the arrival of Mrs. Sloan. Having had previous wide experience in teaching, she fitted easily into the Department, of which she remained a



Mrs. Sloan

member for sixteen years. Nowadays she still can be seen in school from time to time covering for absent teachers. Mrs. Sloan was originally appointed on a part-time basis, as was Mrs. Thompson in 1965. Together they made up a full timetable. Mrs. Thompson, a quiet, conscientious teacher, remained with the Department for twelve years. In June 1963 Mr. Metcalfe joined the staff as a replacement for Mr. Parker, having impressed Mr. Stirling and the Science staff earlier in the year when, as a student, he was on teaching practice in Ballyclare Secondary. Such was his contribution to the Department, and to school life in general, over the next nine years that he was appointed Head of Science in 1972 to replace Mr. Middleton, whose innovating work he continued and expanded.

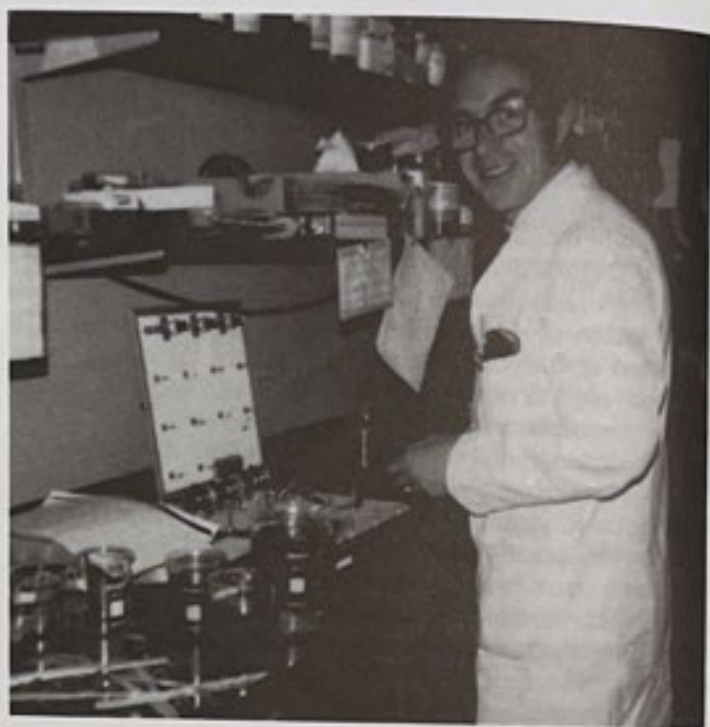
In 1972 Mr. Rankin joined the Science Department. He, with Mrs. Sloan, became closely involved in catering for the needs of what was known at the time as the R.O.S.L.A. group of pupils, who now faced an extra year at school when the leaving age was raised to sixteen. Many stories are told of their field trips and visits to the lion park. Best remembered is the day the minibus broke down — but we can't repeat it in public!

As the numbers of pupils attending school expanded in the seventies, and the realisation increased that Science was one of the more important subjects in the curriculum, another job in the Department was created in 1974. It was filled by Miss McAllister, now Mrs. Best, who brought with her a sense of precision, order and neatness which dramatically improved the efficiency of the filing system. Mrs. Best is still with us, but others who joined the Science Department around the same time were short-stay staff. Mrs. McDowell replaced Mr. Rankin in 1977, but two years later she left to accompany her now-famous husband, Paul, when he joined the B.B.C in London. Miss Bates (later to become Mrs. Savage) replaced both Mrs. Sloan and Mrs. Thompson in 1977. She was a local girl who was held in very high esteem by pupils, and eventually took up a post in Lurgan High

School. Mr. Lewis, who transferred from Parkhall High, and Mrs. O'Neill, late of Dundonald High, took over from Mrs. McDowell and Mrs. Savage.

With continued curricular development, and as Science now became compulsory for all pupils in Forms 1, 2 and 3, it became necessary once again to add to the staff of the Department. Mrs. Dunlop filled the gap, first in a part-time capacity, and later full-time, also teaching some Maths. The newcomers all settled well into their fresh environment, and before long found themselves specialising in various areas of the subject. For example, Mrs. O'Neill now deals most ably with C.S.E. Biology, while Mr. Lewis has moved into the fields of General and Integrated Science.

Throughout all the changes of the last twenty-five years, there has been one constant. Mervyn Higginson was one of the school's original pupils in 1961. In 1967 he joined the Science Department as a Lab. Assistant, serving his apprenticeship under Mr. Middleton. Over the years Mervyn became involved in virtually every aspect of school life, giving generously of his time to every type of school function. His friendly disposition and ability to "fix it" have endeared him to the whole staff. Also deserving of mention was the assistance given to Mr. Middleton's Rural Science programme by the school groundsman in the early days, Mr. Archie McKinstry.



Mervyn Higginson

Although Mr. Metcalfe was appointed Vice-Principal in 1983, he continued to hold the post of Head of Science until 1985, when he was succeeded by Mr. Siberry, who had come to Ballyclare Secondary in 1976 as replacement for Mr. McClelland. A former pupil of Ballyclare High School, Mr. Siberry has an approach to teaching Integrated Science which is both practical and questioning. In recent years, along with Mr. Lewis, he has been responsible for the production of Mode 3 C.S.E. Integrated Science, a valuable experience in view of the assessment procedures in the new G.C.S.E. Over the last year his Lab. has been very popular with pupils in 4E who, under his supervision, made candles to be sold by the school's mini-company. Chemistry and business seem to have mixed very nicely.

As the new Head of Science Mr. Siberry's next challenge will be to lead his Department, whose newest member is Mr. Adrain, into the fresh era heralded by the advent of G.C.S.E. It is hoped the Electronics and Technology will form part of the



Mr. Siberry switches on some electric light bulbs, and the 5th Form Science group goes "Oooooooh!" Robert Rankin (extreme left) is marginally more impressed than Paul McWhirter (extreme right), but opinion is divided over whether the blue bulb or the pink bulb is prettier. The situation was resolved shortly after this photograph was taken when Mervyn McWilliams (fourth from the left) smashed them both!

Science Department's curriculum before long. Despite poor facilities (some of the mobile classrooms are now nearly twenty years old), the standard of Science teaching remains

high. Mr. Siberry is confident that they will be maintained, perhaps even improved upon, in the next twenty-five years.

MOTOR VEHICLE STUDIES



Traffic Education, as it was then known, was started in Ballyclare Secondary by Mrs. Doherty (nee Rankin) in 1978. Indeed, she became the first woman in N. Ireland to qualify to teach the subject.

When the subject was first introduced in the school, many of Miss Rankin's colleagues became extremely worried when they saw her standing in front of an approaching moped being "driven" by a very scared and wobbly pupil. At this early stage some teachers, so unused to the sight, thought that Miss Rankin had either lost her senses or was an extremely brave woman. In 1980 Mr. Graham became the second teacher to become involved, and following Miss Rankin's departure from teaching Traffic Education, because of other timetable commitments, Mr. McAlister joined the team in 1981.

At first Traffic Education was not an examination subject. Much of it was practically based, especially when the weather was fine. In the rain and snow there were theory sessions in the classroom, covering topics such as The History of Transport, Moped Maintenance, The Highway Code,

Emergency Procedures and First Aid. The latter topic led to many hilarious situations when pupils attempted to practice their artificial respiration techniques or bandage the "injured" party. Often the school received visits from outside agencies such as the R.U.C. Traffic Division, who gave talks to pupils on all aspects of road safety.

In 1982 it was decided to offer the subject, now to become known as Motor Vehicle Studies, as a C.S.E. option to 4th and 5th years. Mr. Graham taught that first ever C.S.E. group, and at the end of the two year course, several pupils like Martin Gingles, Samuel Weatherup, Keith ("The Hair") Shanks, Jennifer McAuley and Sharon Morrow, to name but a few, were the first pupils from Ballyclare Secondary to achieve grades in C.S.E. Motor Vehicle Studies.

Since then Motor Vehicle Studies has become firmly established as an option choice open to both boys and girls at the beginning of 4th Year. Indeed, another change of name for the subject is imminent. With the introduction of the new G.C.S.E., pupils will be able to choose Road Traffic Studies as part of their course of study.

HISTORY



When the school opened in 1961 History and Geography were grouped together in one Department, Social Studies, headed by the late Tommy Gilmer. Department staff were expected to teach both subjects, with no specialist knowledge or training required.

Sheela Speers, the school's first History specialist, joined the Social Studies Department in 1963, and recalls: "The early sixties really were the age of innocence in teaching History." However, in 1965 Mrs. Speers became Head of a newly-created, separate History Department based in Room 2, and as she says: "We moved out of the Garden of Eden." The year before, 3A had become the first class to enter the now-defunct Junior Certificate examination, with all the pupils gaining respectable History marks. (There were no grades in those days.) Therefore, in 1965 Mrs. Speers decided to enter one of them, Harry Wright, for the newly-introduced G.C.E. O Level History. Harry's success in this exam., taken a year early, led to the rest of the class being entered in 1966. Says Mrs. Speers: "Harry Wright was our guinea-pig. He proved that secondary school children could sit, and pass, examinations which were primarily designed to be the preserve of grammar school pupils. That 5A class of 1966 excelled itself in History, with several of them gaining a Grade One (the equivalent of today's grade A). I remember particularly the hard work put in by Roy Turkington, Pat McCourt, Robert Yorke and others. Robert went on to do A Level in History and Geography, before moving to the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, where he eventually gained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science, the first pupil from Ballyclare Secondary to achieve this feat."



Robert Yorke (left) and Harry Wright on a History field trip to Lyle's Hill in 1966.

But History, of course, is not solely, or even primarily, a subject for the more able children. All pupils can derive some benefit from its study, and right from the early days it was the policy of the Department to ensure that this would be so. Project and field work involving frequent trips to Donegore, Antrim, Carrickfergus Castle, the Ulster Museum, the Public Records Office and, most recently, "The Golden Hinde" have been arranged. Such outings were at their most frequent during the period when Miriam Allen was Head of Department. She succeeded Mrs. Speers (who joined the Northern Ireland Council for Educational Research in 1977), having come to Ballyclare Secondary six years earlier. Miss Allen built on the solid foundations laid by her predecessor, increasing considerably the resources of the Department. An element of local history was introduced in the junior school syllabus. At all times Miss Allen showed a talent for organisation and a concern for the welfare of her pupils. Mr. Todd, the present Head of History, says of her: "Of her many and varied qualities, her greatest was an appetite for hard work. She expected of others, both colleagues and pupils, no less than she was prepared to give herself — and that was an awful lot." Of her many successful O Level pupils, Miss Allen remembers Phyllis Clarke, Anne Todd, Ian Moore and Sam Haggan, the latter always the "life and soul" of many a class discussion or field trip. When Miss Allen left Ballyclare Secondary in 1976, having become Mrs. John Ferguson in 1974, her legacy was a Department firmly established as a provider of interesting, exciting and worthwhile pursuits, a cornerstone of the school curriculum.

Mr. Todd took over from Mrs. Ferguson as Head of Department in 1976. He had joined the staff in 1969, and remembers that his first examination class consisted of one pupil, Linda Quail, who covered her A Level course in one



Mrs. Speers



History pupils in 1966 perform "Campbell of Kilmore" (or "Culloden Revisited") a stirring drama of the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion.

year. Although A Level work has been undertaken by only a relatively small number of pupils over the years, it became a highly successful part of the work of the History Department under both Mrs. Ferguson and Mr. Todd. Robert Yorke and Linda Quail have already been mentioned, and more recent top-grade A Level students have included Sarah Montgomery, Edith Hill, Olivia Buckley, Margaret McCullough, Ivor McKeown, Valerie Stirling, George Buckley and Sonia Johnston, most of whom have gone on to gain college or university degrees. Says Mr. Todd: "Despite the results achieved by our pupils at A and O Level, and in the latter group I particularly remember, among many others, the lively contributions made by Harry Robinson, Colin Pennock, Helen Mitchell, Tommy Robinson, Andrea Wilson, Paul Johnston and Garth Fenning, perhaps the most satisfying experience from the teaching point of view has been preparing pupils for the C.S.E examination, first entered by Ballyclare Secondary School pupils in 1973." The first group of History students to take C.S.E. were Noel Kelly, Steven McClung, Hugh Mitchell, Chris Simmons, Robin Templeton, Elaine Andrew, Joy Forsythe, Jennifer Fullerton and Barbara McMullan, as hard-working a class as the school has ever had. C.S.E. was the greatest innovation of the seventies. The new General Certificate of Secondary Education (G.C.S.E.) is the biggest change in the eighties.

G.C.S.E. reflects the changes which have taken place in history teaching in the last decade. As a result History has become unrecognisable from the subject that even some of the pupils mentioned in this article knew (and loved?). Thanks, in part at least, to the work of the Schools Council, which identified five major needs of adolescents which History more than any other school subject can meet, the days when History teachers went "From Plato to Nato" have long since gone. In 1980 Mr. Todd and Mr. Manson began a major review of the History Department's aims, objectives, syllabus content and teaching methods. This involved many meetings and long discussions over four years. It resulted in

courses for pupils in the first three years of secondary school which are rewarding and relevant to children in the modern world. The usefulness of the "New History" is now unquestioned, developing as it does, mainly through the handling of historical evidence, the knowledge and skills essential to today's youth. The foundations laid in the junior school are built on in G.C.S.E., which has now replaced O Level and C.S.E. The new exam is designed to cover virtually the whole ability range at 16 plus.



Edith Hill studying for her A Level History examination in 1978.

Many teachers have helped in a part-time capacity over the years in the History Department. They include Miss Joan McDowell, Mrs. Daphne Mears, Miss Patricia Mills, Mrs. Helen McConnell and of the present school staff Mrs. Dennis, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Graham and Mrs. Davison. Most recently the Department has welcomed Miss Neill to its ranks. Her conscientious approach to her work is much appreciated.

The History Department has benefitted enormously from the fact that its specialist full-time staff have spent many years in the school. The "new boy" of the Department, Mr. Manson, has maintained the tradition, having come to Ballyclare Secondary in 1977. Originally from Newcastle-upon-Tyne,

he attended the University of Stirling in Scotland, a country for which he retains a strong affection. He is a most dedicated and hard-working teacher, and a stout defender of the value of his subject in staffroom discussions. The contribution of this modest and most genuine of men to the History Department in particular and the school in general has been highly valued.

Life in the Department has always had its lighter moments, many of them provided by the legendary Harry Robinson. Then there was the day George Buckley became so wrapped up in his A Level studies in the History Store that he lost all track of time and was locked in the school by the caretaker. He eventually made his escape through a window.

ENGLISH



In 1961 there were three full-time English teachers who taught most of the English throughout the school. The late Sidney Astbury was appointed as Head of the English and French Departments. At this time both departments were small, so he was able to combine both jobs, and continued to hold the post of Head of English until his retirement in June 1985. He was the stable element throughout these twenty-four years and he was, in fact, one of the longest-serving Heads of Departments in the school. Under his gentle, encouraging and quiet, inspirational manner, the Department developed and grew. His enthusiasm and sensitivity for the arts, and his passion for the cinema and theatre, encouraged the other members of the Department to broaden their experiences in these areas. His two assistants, Miss McDowell and Mrs. Ferguson, have now both retired — Miss McDowell in 1977 and Mrs. Ferguson in 1974. Miss McDowell was also Senior Mistress, but is remembered for her excellent dramatic and musical productions. Mrs. Ferguson was the school's first teacher librarian.

Throughout the twenty-five years, English has been taught by a core of full-time specialist English teachers with assistance from staff from other departments. In the past Mr. Platt, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Moore (former members of staff), Mr. Waldron and Mrs. Alexander (Commerce), Mrs. Doherty (Religious Education), Mr. Lyons (P.E.) and Mrs. Davison (Geography) have all taken English classes. At present there are eight members of staff in the Department, and English continues to be taught throughout the school to all ages and abilities.

Of the present staff, Miss Roberts joined the Department in September 1972 and also taught Geography and History. For the past ten years she has been employed full-time in the English Department, and had responsibility for the school library from January 1975, after the retirement of Mrs. Ferguson, until 1985, when she was appointed Head of Department after Mr. Astbury retired. Some of the present members of Department have responsibilities for other subjects. Although Mrs. Dennis is Head of the Remedial



The current staff of the English Department. From left to right: Mrs. McNally, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Gaune, Mr. Graham, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Dummigan.

Department she has always taken English classes. Mr. J. Graham joined the staff in 1976, replacing Mr. P. Saunderson who is teaching in Zambia. Mr. Graham is also responsible for the Motor Vehicle Studies Programme throughout the school. Mrs. A. Dummigan was appointed in 1977 after Miss McDowell retired. She is responsible at present for the school library and is assisted by Mrs. E. Gawne, who joined the staff in 1978. Mrs. R. McNally joined the staff in 1979 as a teacher of French, but also teaches several English classes. Mrs. I. Taylor, who was appointed in 1982, previously taught in Hopefield High School and is employed full-time in the English Department. Finally, our Senior Mistress, Mrs. J. McCormick, was formerly Head of the English Department in Rathcoole High School before coming to the Ballyclare Secondary in 1983. Three former members of staff who made considerable contributions to the Department were Mrs. J. Kitson (nee Graham), now living in England, Mrs. C. Kennedy, recently moved to Jordanstown from Londonderry, and Mrs. A. Blair (1983-85), who is at present teaching in Knockbreda High School. The present eight members of staff form a dedicated and forward-looking team, whose interest is in developing English as a central part of the school curriculum. Courses are discussed at the weekly planning meetings. The aim of the Department is to encourage pupils to become confident, literate and articulate members of society.

Over the past twenty-five years members of staff and pupils have been involved in various curriculum projects and national competitions, as well as incorporating visits to the cinema and theatre into the English programme. In the early years of the Department, Miss McDowell organised annual trips to various venues in England associated with the arts, especially to Stratford-upon-Avon. These were always very enjoyable and well-supported. Closely associated with the teaching of English were the drama productions, undertaken annually until her retirement by Miss McDowell, assisted by Mrs. Davison and Miss Roberts. Other members of the Department, namely Mrs. Hull, Mrs. Gawne, Mrs. Dummigan and Mrs. McNally, have more recently been part of this drama team. In the past few years, Mrs. Hull and Mrs. Davison have had success with the pupils at various festivals and public speaking competitions. With the development of the new G.C.S.E. exam., more emphasis will be placed on structured oral work in the classroom.

One project begun in the English Department in 1980 is still continuing. This is the Department's involvement with the School Support Service. Originally this began as the development of a more structured reading programme to assist pupils with reading and learning difficulties. Although the support was officially withdrawn in 1983, the work still continues due to the initial injection of enthusiasm and new ideas on classroom practice.

One class of former teacher Mrs. Hull (now teaching English in Fivemiletown High School) won a competition sponsored by Coca-Cola. Some pupils of Miss Roberts — Hazel Fletcher, Catherine Warwick, Virginia Bell and Royston Crozier — won major prizes in a Newtownabbey Anti-Litter Campaign, and were presented with their prizes at a special award ceremony held at the Valley Leisure Centre. More recently, some members of a former 2V class of Mrs. McNally won an essay-writing competition in association with Co-operation North/South. They were treated to a special day in Belfast and Dublin. In 1973 Alan Lee (currently working in Basingstoke, London) had a poem chosen by the B.B.C. for broadcast on "Jackanory", and Vanda Dodds (now Mrs. John Agnew) had a poem published in the East Antrim Times. Former pupil and current member of staff, Miss M. Hutchinson (Home Economics), won a major essay-writing competition when she was a junior pupil. Since its first publication in 1971 pupils have contributed regularly to

"Newsbeat", the school newspaper. Its Literary Competition has been won in the past by Marshall Morrow (1972), Mary Robinson (1973), Marbeth Fleming (1974) and Catherine Warwick (1975). This year, for example, some 5th Form pupils — Sean Dobson, Susan Letson, Marianne McCrea, Shirley Woods and Pamela Blair — put down their thoughts on "Facing The Future" in "Newsbeat".

Naturally, throughout the years, some pupils have stood out because of what they achieved. Academically, sister and brother, Olivia and George Buckley, deserve special mention. Olivia (1969-76 and assistant Head Girl) attained her B.Ed.(Hons.) at Stranmillis after completing her A levels in English and History. She now teaches English in Larne High School. George (1972-79 and Head Boy) studied at Q.U.B., after completing his A levels in English, History and Politics. He graduated in 1983 with a B.A.(Hons.) in English and is now teaching in Springfarm Primary School. The most recent academic success in the Department was achieved by Sonia Johnson, who went to Q.U.B. in 1983 after taking her A levels in English and History. She completed her B.A. last term. Other pupils with literary interests and achievements were Lindsay Geary, Dean Coulter, Jim Wilson, Harry Robinson, Alan Lee, Karen Bryson and latterly Gavin McDowell (who recently emigrated to Australia). In the field of drama, no-one could forget the two Fagins — Francis Murray and Timothy Campbell. Timothy, who is now studying for A levels at Ballyclare High School, was chosen to perform in a play at Stranmillis College.

Much of the pupils' best work over the years has been done in the school library. This has always been an enviable room in which to study and teach. It is a bright, airy, quiet room, barring the sweet strains which percolate down from the Music Room above! In the last twenty-five years the essential character and role of the library has inevitably changed. In the early days under Mrs. Ferguson, books and other resources were rather less plentiful, as the Schools' Library Service was not as fully evolved as it is today. The library then resembled the other classrooms in that the desks were of the traditional type and, apart from bookshelves, there was no specialized furniture.

By 1975, when Miss Roberts took over responsibility for the library, resources were more readily available and its appearance and character changed considerably. Desks gave way to new, large tables and moulded-plastic chairs, and new book-display racks were added. The only obvious reminder of times-gone-by is the old blackboard and easel, which is now quite a feature amongst the modern furniture. The library at this time was expanding and a "Library Studies" course was initiated.

In September 1985 Mrs. Dummigan was given responsibility for the library, the third change in twenty-five years, and the process of development and expansion is still continuing. There is now no shortage of books (The problem sometimes is to find space on the shelves for the new ones!). In this aspect Ballyclare Secondary is fortunate, and the library has become a central and valuable resource area for the whole school.

The library skills learnt by the pupils at the school are invaluable, and will remain an asset to them throughout their lives. They learn to appreciate the value of books as tools in their acquisition of knowledge, and also as an important element in their leisure time. The love of reading can still compete favourably, even in this age of computer games and videos.

The last twenty-five years have seen many changes in the English Department. Perhaps, in another quarter of a century, a Golden Jubilee magazine article will record the progress of the next twenty-five.

MUSIC



The Music Department began under the baton of Miss Catherine Lusk, the longest-serving music teacher in Ballyclare Secondary. From 1961 Miss Lusk held the position of Head of Music until her retirement in 1978. Over seventeen years at school she helped in the work of the Community Service Group, but her main contribution was to build up a very successful and enthusiastic Music Department, with help from other members of staff, in particular Miss Joan McDowell, the school's first Senior Mistress, and part-time music teacher, Mrs. Olive Watson. In the school's first three years, no fewer than six choirs achieved great success at the Musical Festivals of Ballyclare and Carrickfergus. In 1962 the Under 18 and Under 15 Girls' Choirs took 1st places at the Ballyclare Festival. Second places were gained by the Under 12 and Under 16 Choirs. In 1963 two first places and three second places were collected, and in 1964 the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 18 Choirs all received first places.

In the early days of the school, the Antrim Education Committee, and later the North-Eastern Education and Library Board, provided orchestral instruments, and individual tuition was given to pupils by a team of specialists

who visited Ballyclare Secondary School every week. As a result, it was possible to form a school orchestra. The orchestra was used on many occasions, probably the most memorable being the school dramatic productions, which included various musicals like "The Wizard of Oz" (1971), "The Boyfriend" (1973), "Oliver" (1970) and "Oklahoma" (1975).

After the retirement of Miss Lusk in 1978, the baton was handed to Miss Pat Quigley, who joined the staff of the school straight from Stranmillis College. Unfortunately for Miss Quigley the North Eastern Education Board had introduced a new policy on instruments and instrumental tuition. Because of education cut-backs, instruments not being used in schools had to be returned, and only children who had received tuition in primary schools were allowed to continue their lessons in secondary school. Because of the Board's policy, many children were deprived of the opportunity to develop their musical abilities. Miss Quigley remained in Ballyclare for two years and, despite cut-backs, kept up the tradition of music in the school, entering choirs for festivals and providing music for special occasions throughout the school year.



Miss Lusk (extreme right), Miss McDowell (left) and the Under 15 choir with the trophies they won at the 1964 Carrickfergus Festival.



A really bad picture of a really good Music teacher. His legion of fans were sorry when Mr. Beattie left Ballyclare Secondary in 1984.

In September 1980 Mr. Alan Beattie took over as Head of Music from Miss Quigley who, now Mrs. Greydon, went to Monkstown Community School. Mr. Beattie, another musician straight out of Stranmillis, was glad of the assistance of Miss Anne Whittock and Mrs. Vivienne Stark, both of whom taught Music as well as their own subjects. By now Music was being taught only to first and second year classes, with a choice in third year of French or Music. Because of continuing cut-backs in instrumental provision, Mr. Beattie began a recorder group, and in 1984 it gained first place at Ballyclare Music Festival.

Mr. Beattie has been described, both by staff and pupils, in many ways — "mad", "insane" and "quite unique". Many tales are told of strange happenings which would seem to verify these comments, such as the day he organised a parade of bagpipers along the top corridor, providing the Maths Department with a little light relief. He was known to

have jumped over the piano in the Music Room, and attempted to get musical sounds from the leg of a chair. But he was above all an accomplished music teacher. In 1984 two Sixth Form pupils, Ruth Davison and John Boyd, gained O level passes in Musical Appreciation, after Mr. Beattie and Mrs. Stark gave up some of their free time to coach them. This was the first time that Ballyclare Secondary pupils had successfully taken this subject.

After Mr. Beattie left in October 1984 to join the Young Farmers, Mrs. Patricia Neville came to Ballyclare on a temporary basis until the end of the term in December. This was a memorable time for Miss Whittock, as the week before the Christmas Concert Mrs. Neville was struck down by the dreaded 'flu, leaving Miss Whittock in full control. In typical Ballyclare style, everyone rallied round, staff and pupils alike, and the concert was a great success.

Today the Music Department, under Miss Harvey, is the smallest department in the school with just two members of staff, but it continues to make a contribution to school life out of proportion to its size. At lunchtime the Music Room houses various activities such as junior and senior Guitar Clubs, taken by Miss Whittock, a junior recorder group, a junior choir and a first year girls' choir, taught by Miss Harvey. Instrumental pupils at the minute number four, a first year flautist, a second year clarinettist and two second year violinists. The North Eastern Board has provided a woodwind tutor, Mrs. Mills, and a string tutor, Mrs. Basher, who visit the school to give the girls weekly lessons. Flautist Alison Dillon (5V) has been entering the Associated Board for the Royal School of Music practical exams and has gained her Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Looking back over the last twenty five years, none of the musical achievements would have been possible without the dedication of many, many pupils. In quite a few instances it was the school's Music Department which gave them their initial interest, and some have gone on to become leading figures in local groups such as the Victoria Flute Band and Ballyclare Male Voice Choir. With continued enthusiasm and hard work from current pupils, these high standards can be maintained for another twenty five years.



Isobel Burnim (3H), Andrew Dodds (3B), Cheryl McCalmont (3B) and Mary Jenkins (2R), all members of the Victoria Flute Band.

COMPUTER STUDIES



When the Computer Studies Department began in the mid-seventies, it was similar to most Computer Studies departments throughout the Province in that it was totally under the wing of the Mathematics Department. Several years after its introduction, however, Mr. Robinson handed over responsibility for Computer Studies to a fellow Maths. teacher, Mr. Wilfie Morrison. In those early days Mr. Morrison had to endure many hardships, not least of which was the fact that the school did not own a computer! Instead of being able to sit down at a keyboard, type in their own programs and correct mistakes on the spot, as today's pupils can, the earliest pupils had to have their programs sent to Ballymena Technical College for processing. Allowing for postal delays, printing errors and so on, the average time taken over each program was about a month, which rather took away the excitement of the subject!

1980 was a year of change in the Department. Mr. Morrison was appointed to Dunclug High School in Ballymena, and so Mr. Robinson took over again for a short time as Head of Department. In the same year Mr. Platt, who was then Head of the Business Studies Department, gained his Diploma in Computer Studies at the Northern Ireland Polytechnic. When he returned to Ballyclare Secondary in September 1981 after his year off, Mr. Platt took over the reins from Mr. Robinson as Head of Computer Studies. In 1981 pupils began their first O Level Courses, and since then the Department has offered both O Level and C.S.E. courses in 4th and 5th years.

It was at this time that the North Eastern Education and Library Board installed a 380Z Computer in school. Although this was a great help in teaching computer programming, it soon became obvious that one computer was far from sufficient to cope with the increasing number of pupils wishing to study the subject. The pupils, therefore, were very grateful to Mr. Platt, who ran several fund-raising races, and so raised enough money to buy B.B.C. computers. The Department was again helped by the N.E.E.L.B. at this stage, as they matched every pound he raised with a pound of Board money.



Mrs. Allen with Robert Taylor (5D), Andrew Forbes (5D) and Richard Dodds (5M).

Mrs. Treon took over as Head of Department on Mr. Platt's departure in 1984. She is assisted in teaching the subject by Mrs. Allen (Miss McNeill). Says Mrs. Treon: "Hopefully by the end of 1986 we should have about 12 B.B.C. computers connected together in a network system. When this system becomes operational, computers should become important, not just within the Computer Studies Department, but as teaching aids throughout the whole school."

Since O Level and C.S.E. Computer Studies courses began, a number of pupils have been successful in gaining good grades. Among them were Raymond McNair, who continued with the subject at Larne Technical College, and Stephen Rea, who is currently following an A Level course in Computer Studies at Cambridge House.

FRENCH



The French Department in Ballyclare Secondary was founded in the first year of the school's life by the late Sidney Astbury, who was also Head of the English Department. For the first three years he was assisted in a part-time capacity by Mrs. Eileen Boyd. French immediately became established as a firm favourite with the pupils. The Department set high standards, preparing pupils for the old Junior Certificate examination and, later, for O Level.

In 1964 Miss Jill Murray joined the Department, full of enthusiasm for her subject, having completed a year's residence in France. She became Head of Department a few

years later and continued the policy of preparing pupils for Junior and O Level. In 1967 Miss Murray became Mrs. Todd.

In 1968 the first educational visit to Paris took place under the stewardship of Mrs. Todd and Miss Miriam Allen. Ten pupils spent a most enjoyable and beneficial week in Poissy, a small town on the outskirts of Paris. These visits were a part of the Department's work which Mrs. Todd thought vital, and the 1968 trip was the first of many to what has now become "our" hotel. Nine such visits have now taken place, giving several hundred children the chance, not only to see the beautiful city of Paris, but also to experience a little of French

life. Many teachers have offered their services over the years, both from within the French Department and from other Departments. It can truly be said that every visit has been both educational and enjoyable for pupils and teachers alike.



Mrs. Bradley with the first group from school to visit France in 1968 in the gardens of Versailles.

For the academic year 1969/70 the French Department welcomed Miss Brenda Longstaff to deputise for Mrs. Todd who, with her husband, spent the year teaching in Ghana, West Africa, under the auspices of Voluntary Service Overseas. Miss Longstaff was a capable deputy, her enthusiasm being such that she led the second school excursion to Paris that year. Mrs. Todd returned to take up her post in January 1971, six months later than planned, after an accident in Ghana which claimed the life of her husband.

In the early seventies the Certificate of Secondary Education examination was introduced, creating a major change in exam. requirements. The emphasis was now on communicating in French. The Department had always stressed the importance of this aspect of the language, so it very much welcomed the advent of C.S.E. The French Department continued to grow in size as the school itself grew, and in 1973 Miss Maureen Neill (now Mrs. Moore) joined it when she came to Ballyclare Secondary to teach Geography and French. The following year the Department welcomed another new member, Miss Vicki Graham, who also taught Religious Education, and the enlarged Department settled down to some very good work.

At the time something new was offered to pupils in their fifth year of study — the "Sejour Francais" (French Stay) at an outcentre. The idea was to steep the pupils in French for at least twenty-four hours. They had to try to speak French all the time, they ate "a la francais", played games and sang songs in French. If the school's language assistant was available, he or she accompanied the group, adding to the French "ambiance". The first such "Sejour" took place in 1976 when Ballyclare Secondary had its own outcentre at Parkmore. Since then a group of fifth formers has gone on this trip each year, except when it was hit by industrial action in 1986. The outcentres used are now Ballylough, Bushmills or Derganagh House, Ballycastle. It always proves to be a worthwhile experience for pupils.

In 1977/78 Mrs. Graham ran the Department in the absence of Mrs. Todd, who was spending a year working and studying in Spain, and she successfully saw the Department

through a General Inspection. The Department also welcomed Miss Helen Green to deputise for Mrs. Todd in the classroom. In 1979 the Department reluctantly said "Au Revoir" to two members who had made valuable contributions since their arrival — Mrs. Moore, who was required full time in the Geography Department, and Mrs. Graham, who had decided to devote herself to family life. To replace them Mrs. McNally and Miss Rosa Matthews were appointed, Mrs. McNally to teach both English and French, and Miss Matthews to teach French part-time. Miss Matthews



The French trip in 1970. Miss Allen is the one in the funny hat.

left Ballyclare Secondary after a year when she found a full-time position nearer home in Co. Down. Her last contribution was to join the leaders of the 1980 Paris trip. Strangely enough her successor in the Department also went on that trip, stepping into a last minute vacancy to complete the team. This was Miss Vivien Hinds (she became Mrs. Stark in 1983), who was later appointed to teach both Music and French. Three years later she became full-time in the French Department due to the evergrowing demand for the subject.

In 1980 it was decided to expand the range of the Department and a course of French Studies was developed and introduced by Mrs. McNally. The course consisted of a study of the geography, history, industry and way of life in France. It continues to be offered to third year pupils as an alternative to French, and has proved to be a popular option.

For the first term of the 1982-83 academic year Mrs. Todd exchanged posts with a French counterpart, a teacher of English in France, Madame Coderch. This exchange proved to be a very valuable experience indeed, both for Mrs. Todd in a French secondary school, and for Ballyclare Secondary French Department. The pupils got to know a real French person and their enthusiasm for speaking French soared. Madame Coderch for her part was really impressed by Ballyclare Secondary and by the welcome she received. Class exchanges were established as a result, some of which are still being maintained.

In September 1979 Mrs. Todd had joined a pioneer group of French teachers meeting each week in the Queen's University Teachers' Centre to study Graded Objectives in French. As a result she steered the Department into Graded Objectives. This simply means that the area of work to be studied is clearly defined so that the pupils know exactly what



The French trippers in 1983. Mr. Beattie is the one with the Eiffel Tower growing out of his head.



the objective or aim is. The work is also carefully graded in difficulty and pupils are entered for a level they are capable of attaining.

Level 1 prepares the pupils for a day-trip to France, dealing with such things as asking the way, ordering in a cafe, shopping for souvenirs etc. Level 2 prepares the pupils for a longer stay in France such as a school trip, adding to Level 1 requirements such things as coping with hotels or hostels and travel by Metro, bus or train. Level 3 prepares the pupils for a visit to France with the family, the pupil being the spokesperson for the party. He or she learns to cope with such things as booking into a campsite, looking after the car, eating in a restaurant, dealing with a doctor in case of illness etc. The relevance of such courses is obvious. The pupils have recognised this and have responded to it enthusiastically. Their confidence is evident when they go on the annual Paris trips. They now know they can speak French, and do! All the pupils in Ballyclare now follow these courses. For each level a certificate is awarded. The course in Graded Objectives French deals with exactly the type of French required for the General Certificate of Secondary Education examination, so the French Department is well on course.

In September 1984 the French Department expanded to become the Modern Languages Department when Spanish was introduced into the curriculum. At the moment Spanish is offered only to Sixth Form pupils, but it is hoped to extend this to other classes in the future, since Spanish is a particularly useful language for holiday purposes, not to mention the fact that Spain is now a member of the European Economic Community. In 1984 six pupils studied the Level 1 course in Graded Objectives Spanish and all six gained the certificate, achieving excellent results. In 1985 two more pupils gained Level 1. Mrs. Todd, who became Mrs. Bradley last year, looks forward to developing the teaching of Spanish in Ballyclare Secondary.



Mrs. McNally with a French Studies class

ART & DESIGN



When the school opened there were two Art rooms in the original building which today are Room 8 and Room 10. At that time there was only one Art teacher, Mrs. Carson. Mrs. Carson designed the school badge, using ideas which depicted the local community. In the design you can recognise three units representing the Six Mile River, the Paper Mill and the farming tradition of the area. Because the second art room wasn't needed then, Mr. Hunter, who was in charge of Commerce, used it. Miss Millar (now Mrs. Martin) came to the school as a student teacher, and as the school increased in numbers, when a second post was advertised, she joined the staff. She taught Art as a main subject, but also took some Geography classes. She used a classroom in the top corridor, and actually carried buckets of water to it from Mr. Hunter's room to teach Art! In 1964 Mrs. Carson left the school, and Miss Harson (now Mrs. Love) joined the Art Department. By now another full-time Art teacher was necessary, and during this year Mrs. Martin moved into the second art room.

Twenty-five years ago the Department was called "Art and Crafts". The latter meant that while girls pursued studies in Domestic Science, boys were engaged in various "light crafts" in the Art Department. This could mean things like pottery, weaving or modelling. Whole classes of up to forty pupils would have periods for Art, and the boys would have up to four periods to follow crafts. The Junior Certificate exam. existed then, and every pupil would be entered for this examination at the end of 3rd Year. This consisted of two parts - a set period to complete a drawing of an arrangement of objects, and a second test in painting a given subject or a design for a craft. After Junior Certificate pupils would choose subjects to O Level standard. After a further two year period, a three part examination was taken in set tests which pupils completed in set periods ranging from 1½ to 3 hours.

Since that time educational methods have undergone a dramatic change, and not least in the Art and Design Department. Now pupils spend much more time in the preparation, research and development of ideas through to completion of an end product as part of the examination test. This usually takes a period of a month to complete. Pupils are also required to submit coursework and to keep visual enquiry notebooks, which are used to record evidence of environmental studies. They are also required to show the skills and techniques of the analysis of drawing and painting, and if taking G.C.E. O Level, they must complete a third section which consists of a three hour analytical study of a given subject.

Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Love continued as the full-time staff in the Art Department, and eventually Mrs. Love took over as Head of Department. After five years Mrs. Martin left to take up a teaching position in Cullybackey. Mr. Gingles was appointed to take over her duties, and for another four years two teachers continued in the Department. In 1973 it was necessary to appoint another part-time teacher, and Mrs. Martin returned to teach three days a week. By this time another Art room was badly needed, and when some mobile classrooms arrived at the school, the Art Department took over one of them, in which a small store area was converted to a dark room, and photography was started in the school

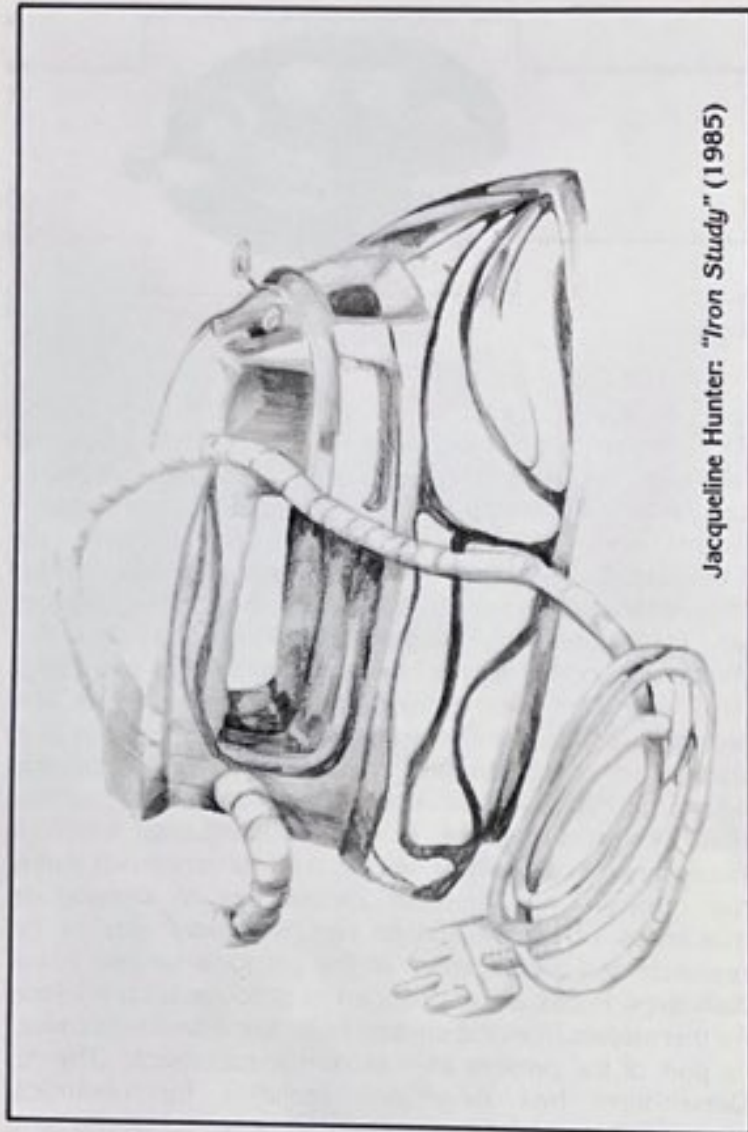
for the first time.

In 1974 plans were drawn up for a new Art and Design Department and Project Area. By 1976 it was occupied, although the Department still needed a mobile. Mrs. Martin taught for six years on a part time basis, until once again a further increase in staffing was needed within the Department. The Department of Education finally decided that Art and Design must be included as a practical subject, and class sizes should not exceed twenty in number. Mrs. Martin applied for the full-time position and was successful. This new area was exciting to organise, and was very welcome, especially when great changes were underway in the subject of Art and Design after many years of planning within the Ministry of Education. Nowadays it is recognised that Design embraces absolutely everything which is necessary for our daily existence, and it is very much part of the curriculum in the Art Department to develop an awareness of the important part designers play in the research and development of the products we use in our daily lives. Pupils are encouraged to produce such artefacts for themselves from the starting point to the finished product as part of the present examination requirements. The Art Department has developed facilities for ceramics, photography and fabric printing. Some senior pupils have successfully completed work experience periods with professional photographers, printers and in the textile printing industry. Through an awareness of the environment, the Fine Art qualities and skills of drawing, painting and three dimensional studies naturally reach higher standards and many pupils have reached very high standards indeed.

With the amount of time spent on examination coursework nowadays, there is less time to devote to competitions, but during the twenty-five years of the school's history, the Art Department has had many achievements in competitions, as well as much success in examinations and in further specialist studies at University. Many prizes have been won in local competitions, and two pupils won major prizes. Robert Armstrong won a 2nd prize in an All-Ireland poster competition in 1966. Unfortunately Robert was



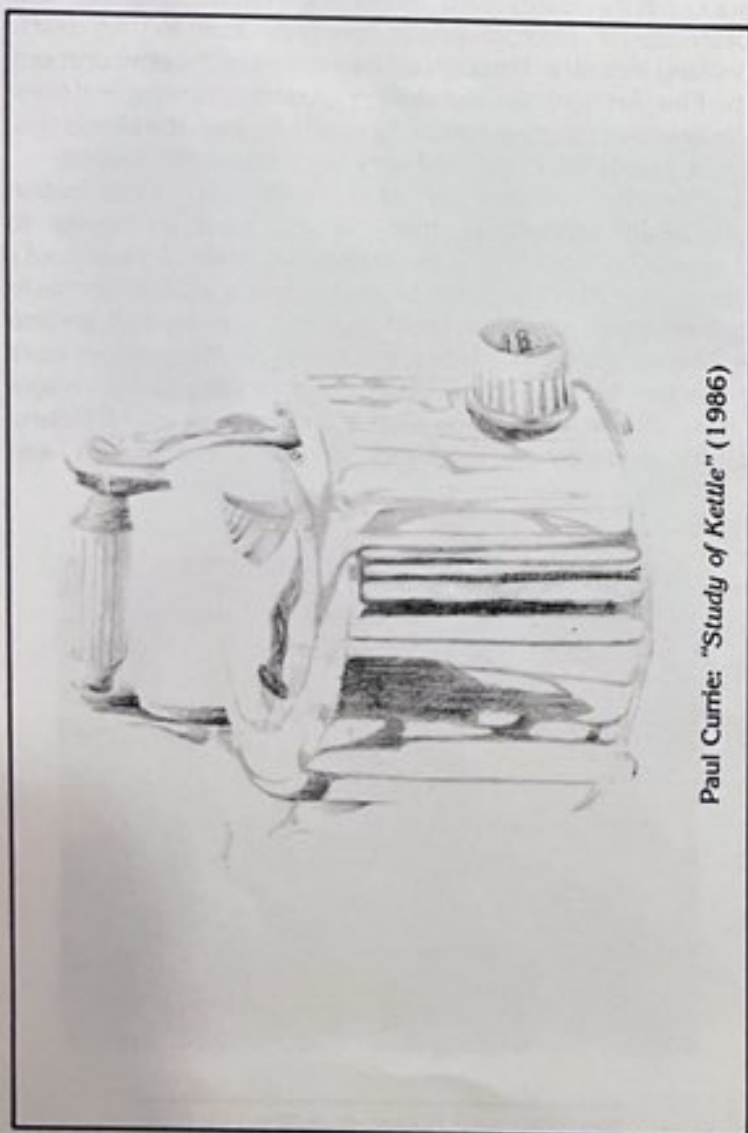
Mrs. Love and Robert Armstrong in 1966.



Jacqueline Hunter: "Iron Study" (1985)



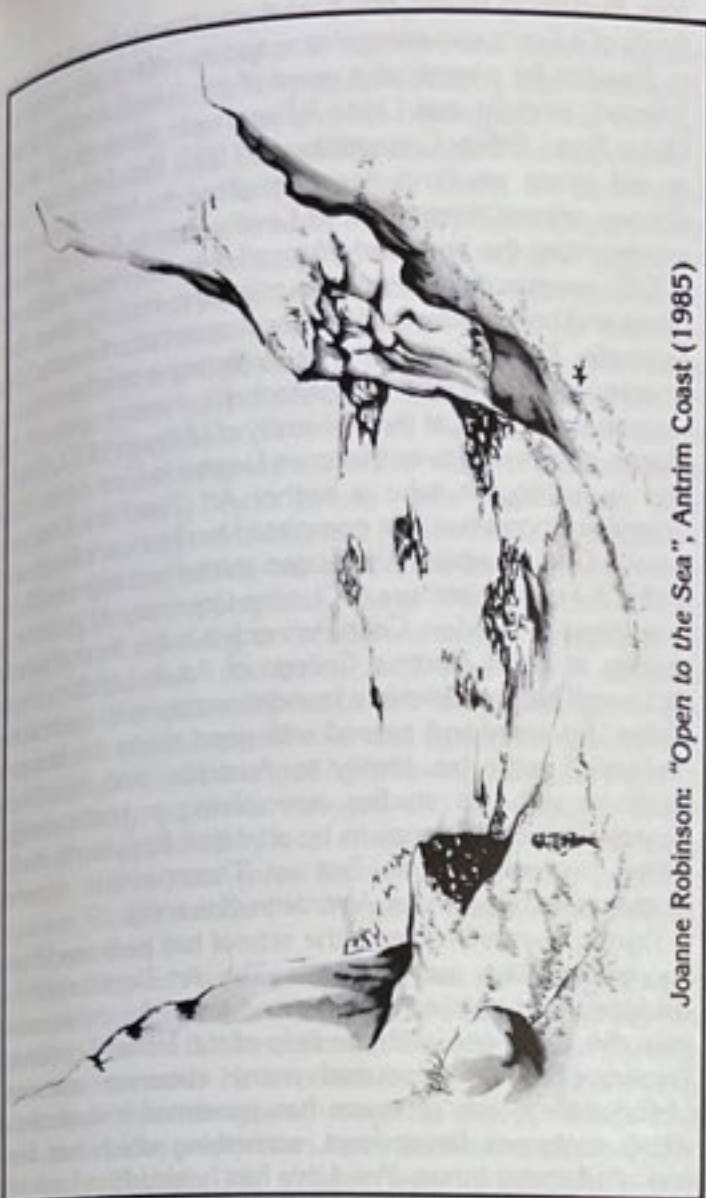
John Mitchell: "Still Life" (1984)



Paul Currie: "Study of Kettle" (1986)



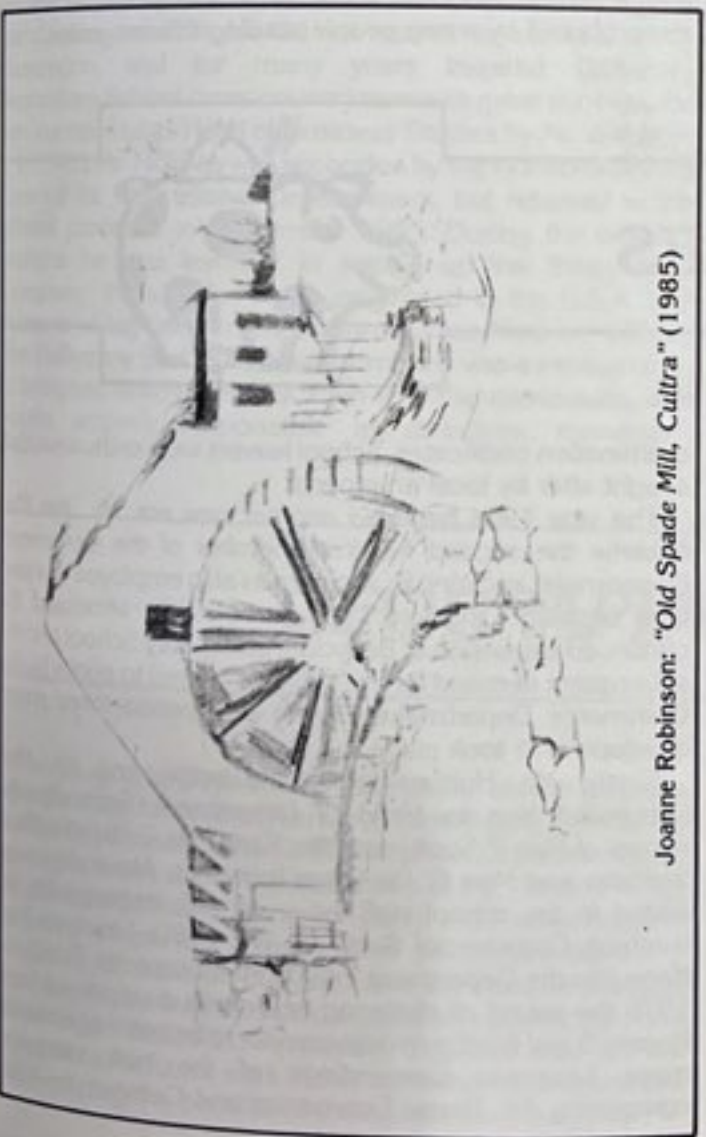
Alex. Kennedy: "Life Painting" (1978)



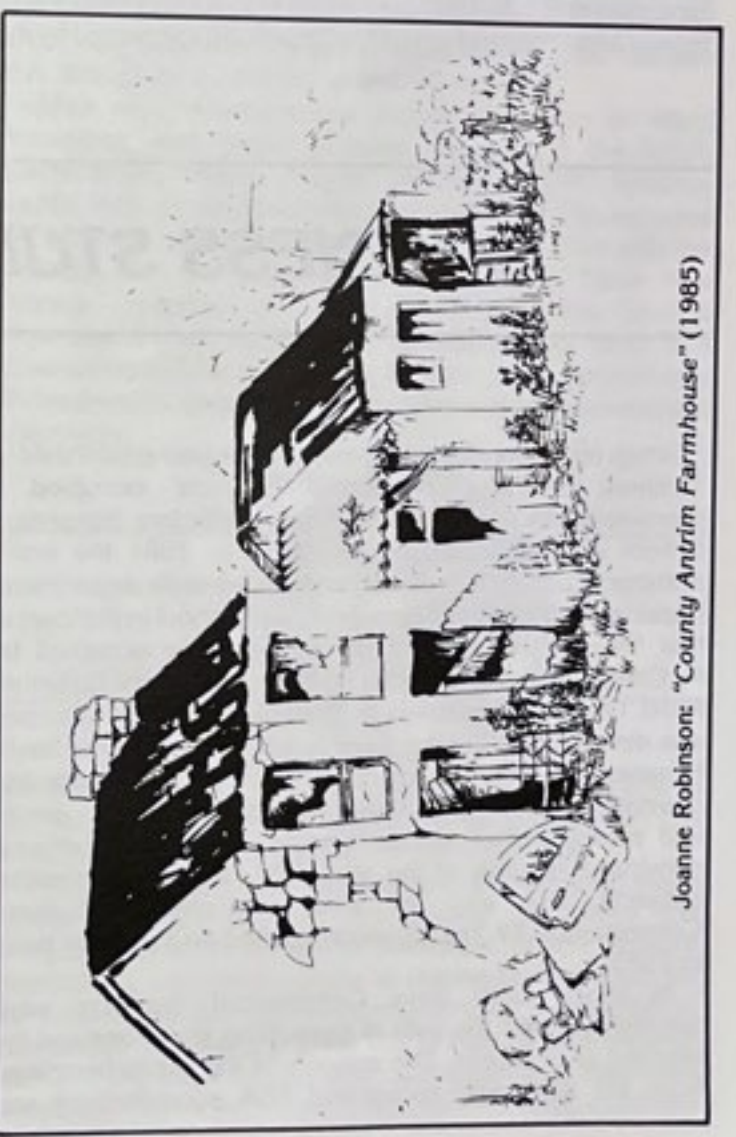
Joanne Robinson: "Open to the Sea"; Antrim Coast (1985)



Joanne Robinson: "Life Study" (1986)



Joanne Robinson: "Old Spade Mill, Cultra" (1985)



Joanne Robinson: "County Antrim Farmhouse" (1985)



Iris McKee receiving her prize for winning a European art competition in 1967.

involved in examinations and was unable to receive his prize in person. Mrs. Love, Miss McDowell and Robert's mother travelled to Dublin to collect his prize, which was a week in Paris for himself and one parent, at a reception in the Royal Hibernian Hotel. In 1967 Iris McKee won a 1st prize in the N. Ireland area section of a poster competition sponsored by the

Milk Marketing Board. Her poster was then submitted in the finals of a European competition and as a result Iris won a trip to Sweden for a week as a guest of the Swedish dairy trade. Samuel Streight and Linda Wilson were winners in an All-Ireland Road Safety Competition in 1980. Mrs. Love says: "In recent years we have been delighted to have had work chosen several times from O Level entrants for exhibition representing the best work from all over the Province in the G.C.E. examination. Several pupils have had success in the O Level and some have had further success at university." For example, Trevor Coleman is completing a teacher-training course at Birmingham Polytechnic, having gained his Honours Degree in Fine Art at the University of Ulster in 1977. Shirley Moore qualified with an Honours Degree in Fine Art in 1984 and is hoping to take a further Art Teachers Diploma. Margaret Logan has just completed her Honours Degree in Interior Design, while Philip Logan gained two degrees (B.Sc. and B.A.) in Architecture at Dundee University. At present he is working in London. Colin Pennock is in his second year of studies at Saint Martin's College of Art in London. Gavin McDowell has completed a foundation course this year at the University of Ulster and passed with good marks. He has now emigrated with his family to Australia, and intends to continue with his studies, specialising in textile design. Joanne Robinson hopes to be admitted this year to the University of Ulster, while Samuel Thompson is currently studying Architecture at Aberdeen University.

During twenty-five years the school has presented many successful plays and musicals. The Art Department has designed and painted scenery and props for these events over the years and, with the help of the Home Economics Department, has produced many elaborate costumes. Unfortunately lack of space has prevented a wardrobe of these costumes being kept, something which has been regretted many times. Mrs. Love has helped Miss Lusk and Miss McDowell with musical items and also worked on dance-drama routines, some of which, perhaps, will be remembered by many people reading this magazine.

BUSINESS STUDIES



When secondary intermediate schools were established in Northern Ireland, 'Commercial Subjects' occupied a prominent place in the curriculum. Ballyclare Secondary School was no exception, although in 1961 the small number of pupils did not warrant for a full-scale department. Fortunately, there was also a Technical School in the town at that time. It was located on the site now occupied by McConnell's Funeral Directors on the corner of the Ballynure Road. One of the teachers at the college, Mr. Mark Hunter, was deployed in the Secondary School on a part-time basis. However, the demand for commercial subjects expanded dramatically as the Secondary School grew. Both parents and pupils, as well as the Principal, Mr. Stirling, became convinced not only of the academic value of commercial subjects, but also of their obvious significance. Consequently, Mr. Hunter was appointed on a full time basis in 1963.

In those early days Commercial Subjects were synonymous with the skills of typewriting, shorthand and the keeping of accounts. The majority of the pupils benefitted from the universally recognized RSA accreditations and

examination certificates. School leavers were enthusiastically sought after by local employers.

The year 1964 heralded another new era. Mr. Jim Platt became the second full-time member of the Commerce Department, and Mrs. E. Agnew was also employed in a part-time capacity. The late 1960s and 1970s witnessed the continued expansion of Ballyclare Secondary School and the subsequent demand for the subjects offered to pupils by the Commerce Department. During this period three major developments took place.

Firstly, Mr. Hunter decided to retire, and Mr. Platt succeeded him as Head of Department. Secondly, the names of Miss P. Scott (now Mrs. Kane), Mr. C. Holmes, Mr. J. Waldron and Miss E. Davidson (now Mrs. Alexander) were added to the school staff list — all with responsibility for teaching Commercial Subjects. The 1980s has seen Mrs. Kane join the Department in a part-time capacity. Thirdly, in 1975 the sound of clattering keyboards disappeared from Rooms 5 and 6 in the middle corridor to be heard again in the more luxurious surroundings of the new extension comprising Art, Home Economics and Commerce — the

latter Department located on the top floor.

Apart from the changes in location and personnel, the pace of educational thinking and philosophy also continued. As a basic tenet, Mr. Platt and his colleagues held that all pupils, no matter what their ability, deserved the opportunity to benefit from the life skills which could be developed through the courses offered by the Commerce Department and the expertise of its staff. Consistent with the policy of advocating the best possible opportunity for every individual, Department staff took note of the demand for external examination courses, so that CSE, GCE and RSA syllabuses and courses were adopted and pursued in a manner which allowed each pupil to achieve his/her maximum potential. It can readily be seen, therefore, that the notion of a Commerce Department being synonymous with Typewriting and Shorthand is both archaic and redundant. The title of Business Studies, which was adopted a few years ago, was obviously more appropriate. Says Mr. Holmes: "The distinction of achieving an academic status recognized by Higher Education, combined with the very obvious vocational and citizenship value for all pupils, gives the Department that comprehensive and egalitarian quality. We feel that pupils have benefitted by following Business Studies courses. Many go on to colleges and universities, whilst others are snapped up by local employers. It is also pleasing to note that at least three former pupils have become Business Studies teachers — Margaret Sloan, Andrea Scott and Susan Reid."

Within the past two years Mr. Platt has gone to take up a lectureship at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. His contribution to the Business Studies Department over twenty years was enormous. He inspired, encouraged and, in some ways, cajoled his colleagues through his obsession with hard work, meticulous preparation and infectious enthusiasm for classroom teaching. His abilities were quite unique, and difficult to define, yet his approach was original without being gimmicky. He would cajole and drive pupils to as high a standard as possible. He did not restrict his activities to the classroom, and for many years inspired Ballyclare Secondary School cross-country teams to great success. He was succeeded as Head of Business Studies by Mr. Waldron.

In 1983 Mr. Holmes was seconded by the Northern Ireland Council for Educational Development, but returned to the school part-time in September 1985. During the next six months he was involved in setting up the Silvoy Mini-Company, the idea for which originated in the U.S.A. and became widely used in schools throughout Northern Ireland. The Ballyclare Secondary mini-company was a serious effort to integrate enterprise education into the curriculum, with pupils actively responsible as directors, managers,



Adrian McCarriston (5A), Dawn Baird (5H) and Hazel Boyd (5H).

shareholders, workers and salesmen. The all-female Board of Directors was Angela Lenehan (Managing Director), Susan Letson (Secretary), Alison Montgomery (Marketing Manager), Amanda Blair and Nicola Loughlin.

Also during the school year 1985/86, the first link course with Ballyclare High School was established by the Business Studies Department. The original idea was Mrs. Alexander's, and as a result seventeen High School pupils joined the Secondary School R.S.A. typing class. It is hoped to maintain and strengthen such links in the future.

Other new developments include a course in Word Processing, with pupils entering Stage 1 of the R.S.A. examination, which began in September. Another qualification on offer to some pupils is R.S.A. "Background to Business", a course similar to Commerce, but with the emphasis on the application of principles. These new courses crystallise the view of the Business Studies Department that curriculum development is vital. The government-sponsored training schemes have opened new dimensions for which Business Studies can provide essential preparation.

GEOGRAPHY



The Geography Department, like History, did not exist as a separate entity for several years, but formed part of the Social Studies Department. When it did become a Department in its own right, it was under the leadership of Mr. Gordon Ward, who remained Head of Geography until 1981, when he left to become Principal of Coleraine Boys' Secondary School.

With the introduction of C.S.E came the need for practical fieldwork. At this time Mr. Ward worked very closely with Miss Miriam Allen (later Mrs. Ferguson). Together they laid the foundations for future work in this area, and the Department is still reaping the benefits of their pioneering activities. Mr.

Ward and Miss Allen were very much ahead of their time in seeing the educational advantages to be gained from first hand practical experience outside the classroom.

The early venue for the 4th year trips was Moneyvart Youth Hostel, Cushendall, and on several occasions the Geographers were joined by members of the Science Department, who were looking at marine biology. Over the years countless numbers of pupils sampled the delights of Cushendall. The last trip there was in May 1979. It snowed! After that the more comfortable surroundings of Bushmills Residential Centre were used. More recently, rising costs and



Richard Lyle, Desmond McMullan and May Christie on the 1972 Geography field trip to Cushendall.

pressure on teachers' time in school have meant the curtailment of the residential field trips, but the work continues, making use of the local area and venues more easily reached. While the school had its own outcentre at Glenariff, it became the focal points for various field trips, but although more comfortable than the youth hostel, it lacked the space to work on studies in the evening.

Mrs. Davison (Miss Harvey in those days) joined the Staff in 1971, sharing the load with Mr. Ward, Miss Allen, Mr. Gilmer and Miss Patricia Holmes (later Mrs. McDonald), whose place was taken in 1972 by Miss Roberts. Over the next few years the school went through a period of rapid expansion, and with the retirement of Mr. Gilmer, Miss Allen's increasing commitment to History and Miss Roberts' to English, Miss Maureen Neill (Mrs. Moore) and Miss Rankin (Mrs. Doherty) joined the Geography team. Much to his delight, Mr. Ward now found himself the only man in the Geography Department. When he became Senior Teacher, he handed over the running of the Department to Mrs. Davison, whose elevation coincided with the involvement of the Department in what proved to be a major curriculum innovation, the Schools' Council Geography for the Young School Leaver Project. Over the next few years Mrs. Davison and Mrs. Moore worked closely on this project, and their endeavours strongly influenced the direction in which the Geography Department was to move. By now Mrs. Helen McConnell had arrived in Ballyclare Secondary School. A most enthusiastic and hardworking member of the shrinking team, she acted as Head of Department in Mrs. Davison's absence. Mrs. Davison and Mrs. McConnell were joined in 1980 by Mrs. Jennifer McQuoid, but within a short time it was "all change" again, with Mrs. McConnell retiring and Mrs. McQuoid taking up a new post nearer home in Cullybackey High School. The new team of '86 is Mrs. Agnew, Miss Neill and Mr. McGuigan. Doubtless their pupils will repeat the success of such "golden oldies" as Anne Bryson, Andrea McCaughey, Jim Wilson, Anna McBride, Alistair Beggs and Ivor McKeown.

C.D.T.



When the school opened, two Craft teachers were appointed. Mr. S. Crymble from Ashfield Boys' School, Belfast, became Head of Department, along with Mr. C. McKnight, whose previous school had been Ballygomartin Boys' Secondary. During Mr. McKnight's first two years he taught General Subjects in addition to Heavy Craft, but as the enrolment increased, he was required to teach Heavy Crafts exclusively. A further increase in the number of pupils meant the Department had to be augmented by the appointment of Mr. M. Adrain from Omagh Secondary School, who was a metalwork specialist, and Mr. S. Cross, who came to Ballyclare from Enniskillen Technical College. The year 1973 marked a milestone in education. This was the raising of the school leaving age (R.O.S.L.A.) from 15 to 16, and this led to the appointment of another member of the Department, Mr. I. Boyd, who had been teaching in Strabane Secondary School. These five teachers are still in the school, thus making the Department, not only one of the largest, but the only one to have remained intact and not lost a member for any reason.

With a department of this size, and the amount of practical work to be carried out, it became necessary for the Department to have the assistance of a workshop technician. Thus in 1974 Mr. S. McCalmont was appointed. By his dedication and enthusiasm he has been a great asset to the Department.

In twenty-five years some significant changes have been seen in both the curriculum and classroom techniques. The

subject was originally known as Heavy Craft, as opposed to Art and Light Crafts, and consisted of the teaching of Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing. Later the term "Technical Studies" began to appear on documentation relating to the subject, with the introduction of the use of other materials such as plastics and concrete into the curriculum. The last change, however, has been the most radical and has resulted in a completely different approach to the subject, which has become design centred, and pupils have been encouraged to seek their own solution to practical problems. This has meant that practically all the old methods of teaching the subject have had to be revised, and teachers have had to rethink their whole approach to the knowledge they wish to impart to the pupil. All this, and the introduction of Technology, has resulted in the latest title for the Department — Craft, Design and Technology (C.D.T.).

From its inception the Department has catered for pupils of all abilities. Whilst pupils have always been encouraged to study for examinations, and although examinations are given a very high place on the Department's list of priorities, it is not however the only aim. The main aim has been to give the pupils some knowledge and experience of working with hand and machine tools and various materials, and the confidence to express their own thoughts in the solution of various design problems in school. Hopefully these skills will be of practical benefit when the pupils have left school.

In the earlier years, pupils were entered for the College of Preceptors and Junior Technical Certificate Examinations in

Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing, followed by O Level in these subjects. Since the C.S.E. Examination began, there has always been a good entry and good results have been achieved. Over the years many pupils have obtained top grades in O Level Graphic Communication. While the Department can take justifiable pride in the achievements of these pupils, it can also reflect with no little satisfaction that many less able pupils have, during their time in school, derived great personal satisfaction and experience, and remember with great affection the time they spend during their Heavy Craft, Technical Studies or C.D.T. periods.

One important objective of the Department has been to introduce the pupils to serving the community in order to inculcate a closer understanding of community service. Thus in the early 1970's when the school saw a need for an outcentre, the Department became totally involved. A number of houses were looked at, but none fulfilled the requirements. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Division, was approached and they offered the tenancy of a bungalow at Parkmore and gave permission to erect a dormitory. The Craft Department was asked by Mr. Stirling to undertake the work, and volunteered to design, construct and erect a dormitory with wash and toilet facilities. The plans were drawn up and the wooden structure was constructed in sections in the various craft rooms, then transported to the site. Groups of boys travelled daily by school mini-bus to prepare the site, lay the foundations and base and, later, to erect the building itself. The building when complete contained accommodation for sixteen pupils and two staff. All modern conveniences such as electricity and hot and cold water were installed.

All members of the Department thought this a most worthwhile project, as did those members of the Forestry Division who had been involved, and this led to another

project. At this time the Forestry Division were starting to develop what later was to become Glenariff Forest Park. Mr. Rogers, who was in charge of development, had in mind a large open log cabin on the site of an estate house which had been demolished. The cabin was to provide shelter and a place where visitors could rest and have a view down the valley during their visit to the park. Mr. Rogers approached the school and with encouragement from Mr. Stirling, the Department undertook the project. The guidelines given were that the cabin should be constructed from logs, should be 60 feet long, divided into six compartments and should be open in the front. All materials were supplied by the Forestry Division. During this time an extension had been built to the school. This included a large Project Room, so when the plans were drawn up and approved and the logs arrived at the school, the task of cutting the joints and preparing the roof tursses was largely carried out in this room. The completed work was then transported to the site and erected in position. The area to the front and side of the cabin was paved. These paving slabs were also made in the Project Room. There is no doubt that this was a considerable achievement. Not only were some 150 boys involved at different times, either in the workshops or in Glenariff, but thousands of visitors have made use of the cabin, and have been made aware of its origins as the name of the school is proudly displayed on it. Had the economic situation not made any further projects impossible, the school would have been involved in a number of others, such as the Forestry Division's pleasure and satisfaction with the school's efforts on their behalf.

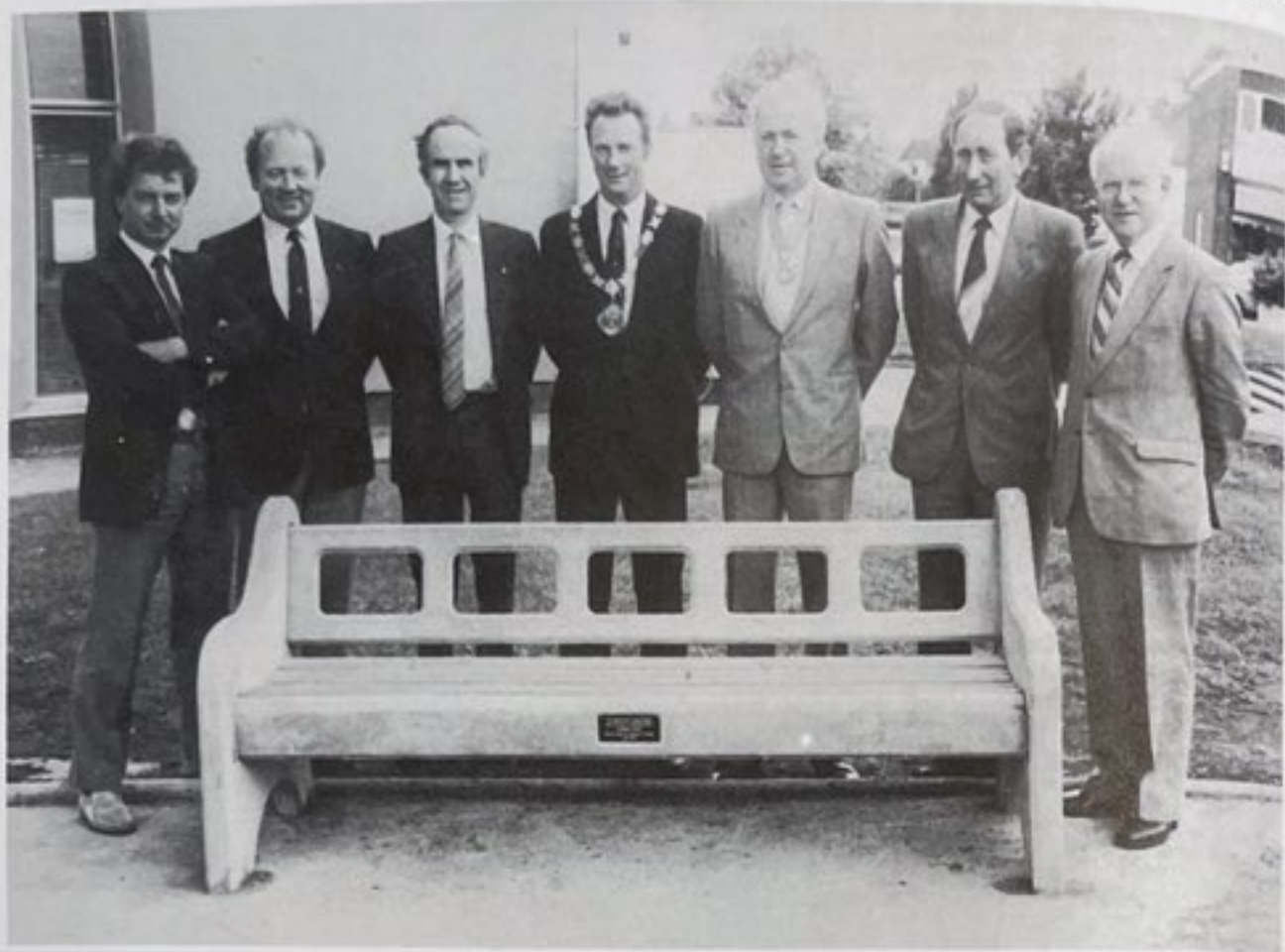
In 1983/84 Building Skills was introduced as a new course to give 6th Form boys some experience in brickwork, concrete and plumbing. The course was very successful in a number of ways. During the year Newtownabbey Rotary Club organized a competition for schools to design a "vandal



The log cabin.

proof bench seat requiring little or no maintenance". This seemed to tie in nicely with the 6th Form course, and a design was submitted. The judges were so impressed that the school was awarded 1st Prize. During 1984/85 two seats were made to this design. One was placed in Glengormley near the Ulster Bank and the second is destined for Ballyclare. It is the intention to produce an additional number of these seats for use in the local community.

There is no doubt that the next twenty-five years will bring many changes in the teaching of C.D.T. The first is already in the process of being implemented with the introduction of G.C.S.E., and it is likely in the near future that C.D.T. will become a core subject in the curriculum. To put new developments into practice, it is hoped that, in the not too distant future, a new suite of craft rooms will replace the ones that have served the school over its first twenty-five years.



The bench at Glengormley. In the centre of the picture is the Mayor of Newtownabbey, Mr. Caul. Mr. Crymble is second from the right.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



In May 1961 Mr. Stirling and the School Management Committee appointed Mr. Dennis Scott and Miss Jennifer Dickson as P.E. teachers in Ballyclare Secondary School. During the summer months, Mr. Scott and Miss Dickson prepared enthusiastically for the arrival of the first pupils in September. From the start of the new school year it was evident that Physical Education in Ballyclare Secondary was going to be an exciting and challenging experience. A large gymnasium had just been completed and was filled with sparkling new equipment. In school assemblies Mr. Stirling was exhorting both staff and pupils to aim for the highest possible standards. In P.E. high expectations of

individual achievement and team success grew as the year progressed. Even during the first term pupils such as Mervyn Turkington, Frank Bennett and Jessie Milliken showed great individual ability in P.E. With team games against other schools getting off the ground, it was evident that the first pupils in Ballyclare Secondary would match anybody in their ability and enthusiasm for school sport. Such was the commitment shown by pupils that during one particular football match Eddie Beggs was reprimanded by Mr. Middleton for giving a "severe tonguing" to a team mate who had miskicked when Ballyclare were leading 6-0. At the end of the year, when Mr. Scott left to take up an appointment in

Rhodesia, a solid base had been built for the development of P.E. in the school.

In September 1962 Mr. Lyons became the new Head of Physical Education. Straight out of Stranmillis College, he was ambitious both as a teacher and a coach. At the end of 1962 Miss Dickson also left to get married, and was replaced by Miss Jean Harbinson, who proved to be a skilled and enthusiastic teacher of hockey and netball. The high expectations, the demands for team success and the ambitions of both staff and pupils provided all the ingredients for a P.E. programme of an elitist nature. The foundations were now laid for a series of outstanding individual achievements throughout the sixties and early seventies. Pupils such as Eddie Beggs, Jim McKeown and Torrens Boyd proved excellent team captains, with the ability to inspire everybody who played with them. The skilled performances of others earned recognition at county, provincial and international level. In 1962 Mervyn Turkington was capped three times for the Northern Ireland Schools' Football Team, while Andrew Holmes and Ronnie Hill represented the Ulster Schools in the Inter-Provincial Basketball series. In 1968 Jackie McKeown was selected for the Ulster Schools Athletic Team and Evelyn Penney played Netball for the Ulster Schools. The following year Robert Beggs was picked for the All-Ireland Schools U.18 Basketball Team. 1972 saw John Logan make the Ulster Schools Basketball Team, while Jill Hill played for the Ulster Schools at Hockey. Margaret Dunn ran for Ulster in the All-Ireland Schools Cross-Country Championships. Joan Penney and Ann Christie were selected for the Ulster Schools Netball Team in 1973 and 1974 respectively.

In reviewing such a list of individual achievements, it is appropriate to pay tribute to the teaching staff in the Physical Education Department throughout this era. Mr. Lyons, Roy Millar, June Hunter, Olive McKinley, Diane Caldwell and Jennifer Dickey all worked extremely hard to help pupils reach a high level of skill and physical fitness. At present Mr. Millar's organizational ability and coaching expertise enjoys a wider forum with the Irish Football Association, while the drive and enthusiasm displayed by Miss Hunter is now channelled into running her own business so successfully in Omagh. Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Dickey and Mrs. McKinley, all now with family responsibilities, still contribute from time to time to the Physical Education programme as substitute teachers.



Mr. Lyons.

With the eventual loss of so many excellent teachers, it was perhaps inevitable that the P.E. Department should re-examine, not only its programme, but the philosophy on which it was based. The mid seventies was a time when the elitist nature of many school Physical Education programmes was being questioned and challenged to an unprecedented extent. Indeed, these were not the only pressures for change to an unprecedented extent. Indeed, these were not the only pressures for change to be experienced by the middle of the decade. There was the leisure explosion, with all the demands on physical educationalists to prepare young people for increasing leisure. In the wider context of education, curriculum change had become the obsession of the time. Appraisal in other subjects started with an explicit statement of aims and objectives, and from this content and method were supposed to spring. Physical Education was no exception. In Ballyclare Secondary the P.E. Department faced the task, first by speculating on the general principles and elucidating the philosophical foundations of the subject. This led to a redefinition of aims and objectives, which in turn had far-reaching implications for the Physical Education programme.

Before considering these implications it should be said that the appointment of Mr. Blair and Mrs. Campbell fresh from college in 1976 could hardly have happened at a more appropriate time. Both brought to Ballyclare Secondary a detailed knowledge of current trends and changes which were taking place in Physical Education.

In the sixties and early seventies the P.E. Department had laid great emphasis on its responsibility to promote physical fitness and health. It had exerted a constant demand on pupils for the perfection of pre-designated skills and activities. On the other hand, it had neglected pupils' personal choice and their need to sustain enjoyment and interest in physical activities. The emphasis had been placed quite firmly on preparing pupils to perform skillfully in school teams and ensuring that they conformed to the norms and standards required. The most talented pupils were given the most coaching. Evaluation was a process of comparison between pupils which inevitably resulted in a rank order. Pupil choice and the need for a wider range of activities to match their interests were sacrificed on the altar of team success. For those pupils who were unable to find places on school teams, constructive and creative use of leisure in post-school life was an unlikely outcome of the P.E. programme.

The new programme of the late seventies was an attempt to bring about change in several ways. A wider range of activities was to be offered. There was to be more opportunity for pupil choice. Block teaching was introduced throughout all age groups, followed by off-site activities for senior pupils, aimed at widening their range of recreative skills. In evaluation emphasis changed from comparison between pupils to encouraging pupils to compare their present attainment and performance levels with their own results in previous tests.

These changes were given a fresh impetus in 1979 when three additional P.E. staff, Mr. Billy McAlister, Miss Whittock and Miss Neill were appointed. This improvement in staff-pupil ratio allowed the school to have six Physical Education specialists, and widened further the range of physical education activities on offer. In the eighties, pupils' choice of activities has improved considerably, although financial cutbacks have restricted the development of squash and weight-training. For example, boys in the eighties are taught the basic skills in rugby, soccer, basketball and hockey. They learn to swim and have some opportunity to participate in squash, badminton, weight-training, athletics and tennis. Enjoyment is an essential ingredient of to-day's P.E. programme, but it does not preclude effort (physical and mental), with due attention paid to standards of skill, fitness

and health. As a result, two seasons ago Michael Harvey, Nigel French and Peter Brownlee were selected to play for the North Eastern Schools Basketball Team while Darren Moore was picked for the Northern Ireland Schools Football Team.

The new approach to P.E. teaching is about setting tasks. It does not imply complete freedom through laissez-faire leadership, but rather a balance of freedom and order. While authoritarianism has diminished, there is no room for the abdication by Physical Education teachers of authority. In the

senior school, the options programme demands that pupils submit themselves to tasks which, within a framework of physical activity, develop attitudes and abilities conducive to their own personal development. In this way the current Physical Education programme provides pupils with a means of spending their leisure time constructively. Furthermore, by improving the levels of skill and fitness of all pupils, Physical Education makes a unique contribution to the educational process.

CAREERS



For many parents and other readers of this magazine the idea of institutionalized careers guidance did not exist in their school days. This notion is comparatively new. For that reason an informed background to the development of guidance in secondary schools might be useful.

When one looks back to the early public schools in England, the Headmaster played a prominent role in the guidance of the pupils. Later, after the passing of the 1902 Education Act, many of the new secondary schools were located in the growing industrial centres. Once again, the Head of the school was confronted with the problem of

placing pupils in employment. Thus the notion of the "careers teacher" can be traced to the turn of the century. By the 1930s most schools had begun to appoint a "careers master" or "careers mistress" who, in addition to their ordinary teaching work, was charged with the duty of finding suitable jobs for the school leavers. Of course, at a time of scarce opportunities and little prosperity, the young people did not enjoy the luxury of 'choosing' a job or career. Rather, it was a case of securing gainful activity for a meagre income. This narrow approach to vocational guidance was based on a single interview, as a result of which the pupil was placed in



Mr. Holmes (centre) with Mr. Cross, Miss McWilliam, Mrs. Baxter of the P.T.A. and Mr. Davis, the Careers Officer, at the school's Careers Convention in 1979.

the employment market. Compared with to-day's orientation, the young person had very little say in the transition decision.

In Northern Ireland in 1957 a consultative body under the Chairmanship of Lord Coleraine was set up. The Coleraine Committee was responsible for the recommendation to establish the Youth Employment Service under the Ministry of Labour and National Service to help with vocational guidance in schools. In their report it was stated that: "In our view the Youth Employment Service must be regarded as a social service. Choosing a job is the first important decision that young people have to make on leaving school. It may well be the most important decision that they make in their lives. The greater part of conscious life is spent at work. Human happiness and social health alike largely depend upon the attitude of the individual to his work."

This brief outline makes it clear that vocational guidance was regarded as a peripheral function of the school at the time Ballyclare Secondary opened its doors in 1961. With the combined efforts of Mr. Stirling and the Youth Employment Service, the new arrivals in the school were assured of a guidance safety net. From the point of view of the Youth Employment Service, all those associated with the school would be anxious to acknowledge their gratitude to Mr. R. Davis and Miss R. Hall, who not only made a substantial professional impact on the early development of Ballyclare Secondary, but also left a lasting personal impression on pupils, teachers and employers.

From the beginning of the school, Mr. Stirling signalled his positive attitude to guidance by appointing Miss J. McDowell and Mr. D. Metcalfe as the teachers with responsibility for this important work. The 1960s was a period of commercial and industrial growth in Northern Ireland. Ballyclare was no exception. Consequently, vocational guidance was not just a matter of "fitting faces to jobs" or simple talent-matching. Rather, there was a variety of opportunities available to choose from. As a reflection of these more prosperous socio-economic conditions the narrow concept of vocational guidance was replaced by the more visionary approach of careers guidance. Miss McDowell's programme adopted the broader role of information giving — keeping pupil records, arranging occasional talks, pupil interviews, liaison with Youth Employment Officers and cultivating contacts with local employers. The pupils were expected to take on a less passive role by actively exploring the information sources being made available. They themselves were given the opportunity to exercise greater autonomy and choice over their eventual career choices. In 1977 Miss McDowell retired from teaching. Having left behind the legacy of an excellent foundation for careers education in Ballyclare Secondary School, she is worthy of the highest tribute.

Following Miss McDowell's departure and the promotion of Mr. Metcalfe to the Head of the Science Department, Mr. C. S. Holmes and Miss M. McWilliam were asked to take responsibility for this most important curricular area. Later Miss E. Davison (now Mrs. E. Alexander) became involved, and continues to make a valuable contribution. The new careers team has attempted to take advantage of American research and theorizing in the field of careers education. This revolutionary approach rejects the apparently isolated and relatively sudden event implicit in the talent-matching model when pupils quickly choose a job and abruptly move to work. Rather, career choice is now regarded as a developmental process which begins much earlier. Consequently, in Ballyclare Secondary School, the careers programme begins in 3rd Form.

The timetable for careers provision is planned and delivered around four main components:

(i) **Self-awareness:** Through counselling, discussion and exercises the children are led to a discovery and



Amanda Blair (right) during her Work Experience Week last year in the dental surgery of the local Health Centre.

understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses.

(ii) **Occupational awareness:** A plethora of activities is arranged so that the pupils become more accurately aware of the real world of work. Examples include industrial visits, career talks, work experience, television, video programmes and class discussion.

(iii) **Decision-making:** Information alone is insufficient to equip pupils to reach a career choice. They must have some idea of the skills by which to reach a fruitful decision.

(iv) **General life skills related to transition preparation:** Here most other subjects make a significant contribution. For example, in the Commerce class the pupils can find out about buying a house or the pros and cons of renting versus buying. In the English lessons they are given a comprehensive education in form-filling or writing letters of application. The Careers Department itself does much to prepare the boys and girls in, for example, interview techniques or using the telephone to obtain information about employment and training.

With the pupil at the centre of the education process, Ballyclare Secondary School must continue to ensure the adequacy and relevancy of its provision. This can only be achieved by taking into account the current trends which are emerging in post-16 opportunities. These may include 6th Form, further education, training schemes, self-employment and/or, alas, periods of unemployment. In future the Careers Department will not be the only major provider of information and guidance. Instead, ALL teachers will make a contribution as they teach their own subject. The Class and Year Teachers will be expected to taken on a co-ordinating role to ensure that there aren't any gaps in the information, advice and guidance being put across to the pupils. In the immediate months and years the careers staff will still retain a specialist advice role, but will facilitate teachers as well as pupils. They will be a consultant resource in terms of employment trends, qualifications and library material. In this way careers guidance will become fully integrated into every classroom, should be given a top priority by every subject teacher and reflect the overall curriculum policy as set out by the Headmaster.

SECTION 5



Shortly after it was decided to produce a celebratory magazine, an appeal was launched for photographs of people and events in the history of the school. There was an overwhelming response. Literally hundreds were received, and as many as possible have been married to the text throughout the magazine. However, it seemed rather a pity not to publish as many as possible of those that remained. Thus it was decided to devote some pages just to photographs. Here they are.

Simply Snaps



Dignitaries on the platform in the assembly hall at the official opening of the school in October 1962.



Robert Elliott (Deputy Head Boy), Lorna Mairs (Deputy Head Girl), Joan Todd (Head Girl) and Harry Wright (Head Boy) at the school prize distribution on 10th December 1964.



Two pictures from Christmas 1961. On the left is 15-year-old Millicent Girvan with the school Christmas card which she designed. On the right Ann Andrew, whose fourteenth birthday was on Christmas Day, who was invited to switch on the festive lights at the Town Hall.



Mr. Middleton (left) and a group of boys on a visit to Belfast docks. We believe the photograph (apologies for the quality) dates from around 1967.



The two pictures at the top of the page show, on the left, Eileen Wilson, Joyce Kenny and Elizabeth McIlwaine, and, on the right, other members of 2A on the class outing to Ballygalley in 1968. Middle left is Phyllis Clarke on a History field trip in June 1967. Bottom left are six young ladies in the outcentre at Parkmore in the mid-seventies. Above Mr. Adrain, Miss Miller (Mrs. Martin), Mrs. Metcalfe and Miss Smith on the Ramblers' Club trip to the Sperrins in 1967.



Two of football's All-time Greats meet at Anfield on the 1977 Soccer Club trip to Liverpool. Kenny Dalglish (left) fulfils his lifetime ambition by meeting Ballyclare Secondary's legendary star, Steven Glass.



Goalmouth action in the last of the annual fixtures between Unity Boys Club and Ballyclare Secondary on the Soccer Club's trip to Liverpool in 1980.



The last farewell! The lads, fresh from the War On Want shop, pictured on the steps of the Alicia Hotel before leaving Liverpool at the end of the Soccer Club's trip in 1980. Left to right they are Norman Laird, Jeffrey Crone, Paul Montgomery, the Alicia Hotel doorman, Mr. Todd, Hugh Hunter, Clarke Jenkins and Steven Glass.





In June 1976 Mr. Cross and 2H set out on a day trip to the Glens of Antrim. Here he and his two navigators try to work out why they ended up in the Lake District.



In this picture of the Geography field trip to Cushendall in 1979, Mr. Ward and his team work out how to rescue the school minibus, which was engulfed by a landslide.



Miss Smith gets the hump as she is savaged by a camel in North Africa during a day on shore in 1980, when she and Mr. Manson accompanied a school party on a cruise on the "S.S. Uganda". As she screamed for help, Mr. Manson took this picture.





The first function held by the Community Service Group on 27th February 1973. Margaret Kitson, Lynn McDowell, Jennifer Fullerton and Mary McIlwaine serve supper to senior citizens after a visit to the school musical.



Girls from the Community Service Group pictured before the annual delivery of Christmas hampers to local old people in December 1976.



Audrey Bryson, Alison Baxter, Mrs. Moore, Rith Kirk and Sandra Weatherup pictured at Belfast City Hall, where the girls received their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards in 1977.



Pictured at the prizegiving in December 1980, from left to right, are Jacqueline McNeely (Shield for Public Speaking), James Ellison (Drama Cup) and Denise Martin (French Cup).



Linda Wilson and Samuel Streight in 1980, when they won an Ulster road safety competition.



Janelle Neeson (left), Tracy Ireland and Mrs. McNally meet the Lord Mayor of Dublin and other dignitaries in 1983 after the girls' essays on cross-border co-operation won books and £250 for the school.



1



2



3



4



5



6



It is 1970, and a typical Science class is studying creepy-crawlies. They decide to try and catch some, and so set off for the river. Their journey takes them past the back of the school, where the new extension has yet to be built. This is surprising, for the river is in the opposite direction. Some days later they reach the Six Mile, where they catch some slimy things. Back in the lab., they put the slimy things in jars and bottles and poke them. During the investigation some children get microscopes stuck in their eyes, but happily recover to write an essay entitled "A Day in the Life of a Slimy Thing".



Gary Wallace, Steven Watts and Michael Alexander on the Youth Club visit to the Motor Show at the King's Hall, Belfast, in 1977.



Alison Baxter and Ruth Kirk (again!) at the Youth Club Cake Sale in "Maretta's" to raise money for club funds in 1977.



Colin Surgenor plays guinea-pig at a Youth Club hair-styling session in 1982. Others pictured include Carol Barkley, Jane Cameron and Lorna Hamill.



Sammy Mitchell (left) and Paul Topping (third left) represent the Youth Club in the BMX race on the Channel 4 television programme "Trax-Trix" in May 1984.



Andrea Heaney and Zoe Ginan on the Youth Club holiday in the Isle of Man in 1984.



Maureen McConnell, Patricia Mulvey and Lorraine Clugston on the Summer School trip to Gíran, Scotland, in 1977.



An unidentified member of the Summer School with Brian Tuvedie (right), Laura Ramsey and Margaret McGolpin at Shane's Castle in 1977.



The Summer School party, 1982.



The cast of the first major musical production, "Way Out West", in 1968.



Jim Finlay and Kathleen McKee in the 1969 production, "Trouble In Baghdad".



Jim Wright as "Tin Man" in "The Wizard of Oz" (1971).



Jacqueline Hollinger, Yvonne McMeekin, Elisabeth Getty, Irene Wallace and Karen Telford in the 1973 production of "The Boyfriend".



Rosemary Andrew in the title role of "Cinderella" in 1974, with Lindsay Geary as Buttons.



Wanda McIntosh as the Good Fairy in "Cinderella" (1974).



Heather Beattie and George Gault in "Oklahoma" (1975).



Isobel Hollinger in "Oklahoma" (1975).



Paul Holmes as the Genie of the Ring in "Aladdin" (1977).



Uncle Ebenezer, played by William Dennison in "Aladdin".



Painting the scenery for the 1983 production of "Jack and the Beanstalk".



Above are two pictures from one of the earliest school Sports Days. Alas, we cannot identify the competitors. Left are two competitors, Jonathan Drummond and Mark Sempey, from the 1986 Sports Day. Bottom left is Mr. Waldron and Drew Strange tussle for the ball in the 1976 Staff v Pupils soccer match. Bottom right is the ladies' staff hockey team before they took the field to play the male staff, also 1976. "Age shall not weary them". Modesty forbids mention of the young man who scored the winning goal.





The 3H/S French group, 1976.



6th Formers and Mrs. Bradley (right) after their fast which raised £700 for Ethiopia in 1984.



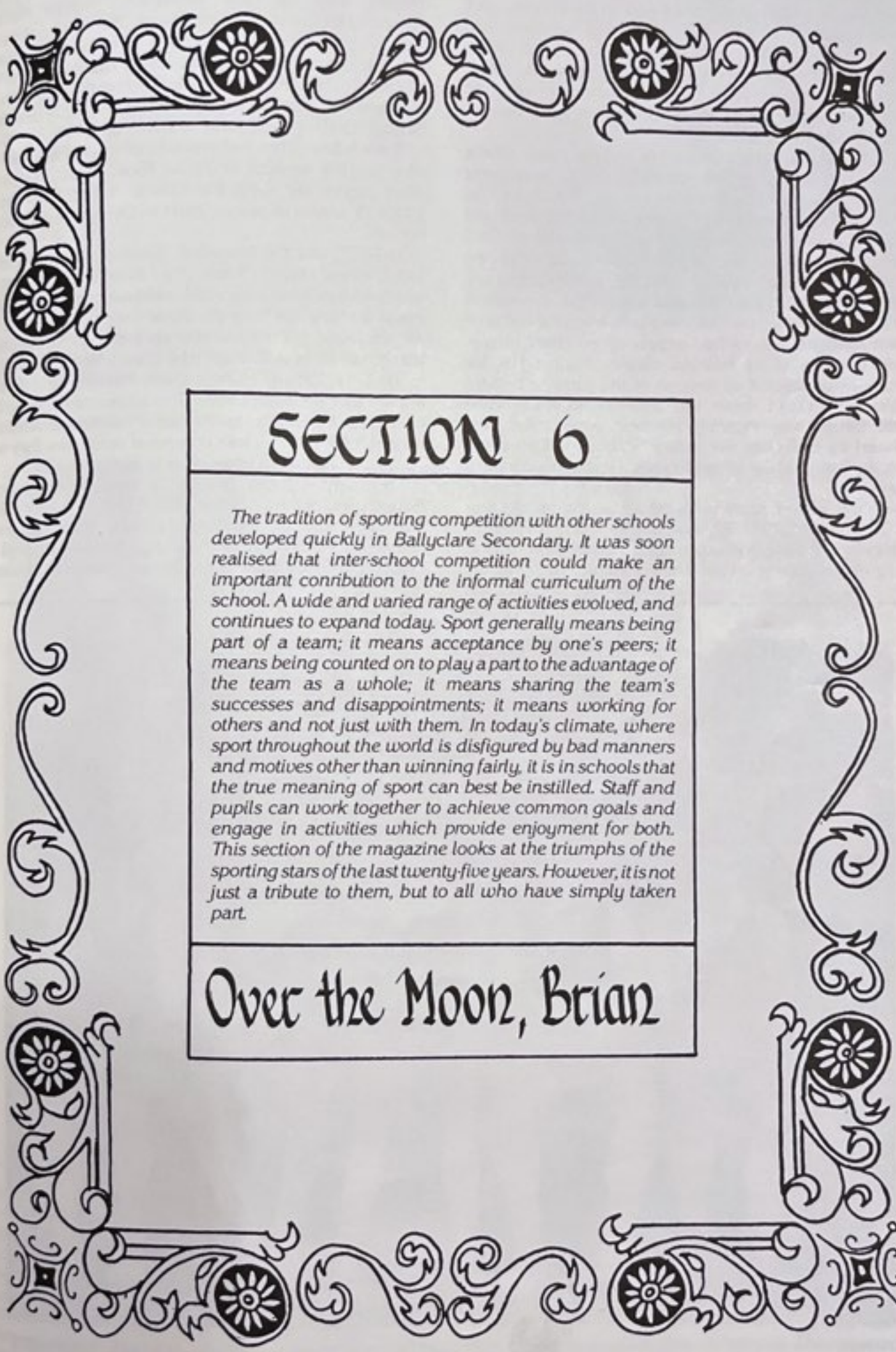
Miss Skelly, Miss Neill and Miss Whitlock after the announcement of the latest pay award to teachers.



Prefects Marie Gault and Carol Smyth make an arrest in 1973.



Mary Hutchinson, David Frizzell, Norma Coleman, Sandra Watters and Samuel Robinson on a Science outing in, we think, 1967.



SECTION 6

The tradition of sporting competition with other schools developed quickly in Ballyclare Secondary. It was soon realised that inter-school competition could make an important contribution to the informal curriculum of the school. A wide and varied range of activities evolved, and continues to expand today. Sport generally means being part of a team; it means acceptance by one's peers; it means being counted on to play a part to the advantage of the team as a whole; it means sharing the team's successes and disappointments; it means working for others and not just with them. In today's climate, where sport throughout the world is disfigured by bad manners and motives other than winning fairly, it is in schools that the true meaning of sport can best be instilled. Staff and pupils can work together to achieve common goals and engage in activities which provide enjoyment for both. This section of the magazine looks at the triumphs of the sporting stars of the last twenty-five years. However, it is not just a tribute to them, but to all who have simply taken part.

Over the Moon, Brian

Although basketball was played almost from the time the school opened, it wasn't until the 1963/64 season that teams were entered for league competitions. It was to be 1965/66 before the first basketball trophy was won by the school. Thanks to some excellent outside shooting throughout the season by Rodney Wilson, and the rebounding of Bobby Rankin, perhaps the team's best player, the East Antrim Senior League was won by the Under 15 side, coached by Mr. Lyons and captained by Brian Turkington, who was an excellent passer of the ball.

In 1967/68 Mr. Millar's Under 14s and Mr. Lyons' Under 15s won their respective East Antrim Cups. Both teams went on to further success the following season. The Under 15s, whose most outstanding players were Jackie McKeown, the skipper, and playmaker, Tom Gilmore, again won the Cup, while the Under 16s beat Larkfield Secondary School in the final of the Ulster Schools' Cup. The Under 16s' triumph was indeed worthy of note, for the other sides in the competition were a year older than the Ballyclare lads. It was the first time a team from the school had picked up an Ulster trophy, largely because of its talented players. Ronnie Hill, for example, was skilful in all aspects of the game, a brilliant dribbler, who could shoot with uncanny accuracy, while Robert Beggs was arguably the best basketballer ever produced by Ballyclare Secondary School. Mr. Lyons, the coach, reckons that the school has never had as good a team as this one.

It was to be three more years before another trophy was won. That season, 1971/72, saw Mr. Lyons' Under 15 team, which included Torrens Boyd and Lloyd Carmichael, win the County Antrim Cup and East Antrim League. Their biggest

disappointment was that they were defeated in the semi-final of the Ulster Cup by Ballynahinch Secondary School. The Under 14 side that season contained a number of very useful players, such as Clive Thompson, Michael McClean, Raymond Philips and Jim McGrugan. But the star of the side was the ebullient John Logan, a 3rd Former who achieved the distinction of playing for the Ulster Under 15 team. With so many good players, the only surprise of the season was that they won only one trophy, beating Dunmurry Secondary School 53-49 in the County Antrim Cup Final.

There followed two lean seasons, although the Under 15s, who lost the services of Eddie Poole, David Moore and John Logan, did reach the County Antrim Cup Final in 1972/73, only to be beaten 28-41 by Lisnagarvey Secondary School.

1974/75 saw the basketball fortunes of the school rest with the new Under 13 side. They alone of the three teams which operated that season achieved success. Although they made an early exit from the Ulster Cup, they won the East Antrim League, and it was obvious that some of the players had quite a bit of skill, which their coach, Mr. Lyons, was able to develop. Wesley Murray, Garth Fenning and Graham Rankin were the team's stars. This squad continued to be in contention for trophies for the rest of their time at school, but although they came close on several occasions, they never again matched their achievements as Under 13s.

The early eighties brought a new set of top-class basketballers to the school. In 1980/81 Mr. McAlister's Under 14s won the Mid-Antrim League, with consistent performances throughout the season from John Boyd and Colin Blake. The following year the same team went on to win



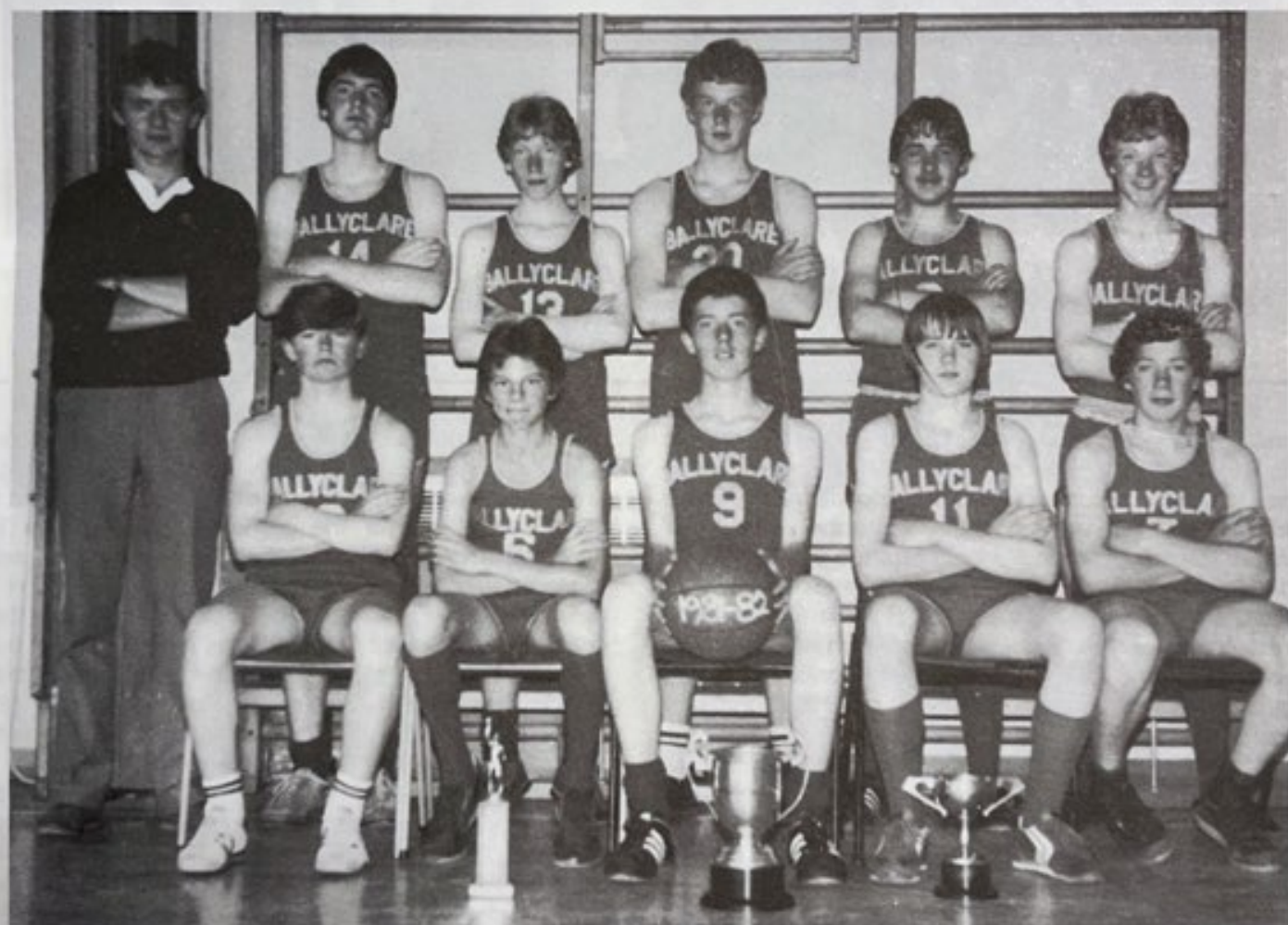
Perhaps the school's best ever Basketball team, the 1968/69 Ulster School's Cup winners. Back row: Mr. Millar, A. Holmes, S. Robinson, J. McKeown, R. Beggs, Mr. Lyons. Front row: T. Gilmore, J. McKeown, R. Hill (Captain), W. McGoekin, K. Dundee.

the North-Eastern Schools' Senior Cup and the Mid-Antrim and East Antrim Senior Leagues. This hat-trick of trophies in the one season was an outstanding achievement for Mr. McAlister's boys, reflecting the enormous amount of practice they put in. The same year, 1981/82, Mr. Blair's Under 13s, a team which included Nigel French and Michael Harvey, were good enough to finish the season as North-Eastern Schools' and East Antrim League winners. This same squad, now coached by Mr. Lyons, and including Peter Brownlee, Keith Douglas and Alister Auld, really hit top form again in 1984/85. After training and competing well all season, they defeated Magherafelt High School 36-33 in a tight play-off game to become North Eastern Schools' Under 16 champions.

One of the most pleasing features of the way in which the Basketball Club has been run since the early days of the school has been the encouragement offered to members to continue playing the game after they have left school. With this in mind, Mr. Lyons, many years ago now, set up the Ballyclare Royals, a basketball team for former pupils. Recently the Royals Club has been reconstituted, with Mr. McGuigan and Torrens Boyd helping to coach the players.



Mr. Blair and the North-Eastern Under 13 Basketball Champions 1981/82.



Mr. McAlister and the 1981/82 all-conquering Under 15 Basketballers, who won three trophies that season. The team captain is John Boyd.

Since the school opened, hockey has proved to be the most popular sport for girls. Over twenty-five years there have been a number of team successes, but surprisingly, despite the enthusiasm of the girls, it wasn't until 1969/70 that the school claimed its first trophy, when the Under 14 XI won the County Antrim Schools' tournament. Coached by Miss Allen and Mrs. Todd, the girls stormed to victory by beating all the other secondary schools in the area. With the confidence gained from this success, the Under 14s made good progress in the Junior Cup, a competition open to all

secondary and grammar schools in the Province. In the 1st round Ballyclare swept to an 8-0 victory over Rathmore Convent, and then disposed of near neighbours, Ballyclare High School 4-1 in round two. By beating Ashfield 3-1, the Under 14s found themselves in the quarter-finals. Their opponents, the Girls' Model, Belfast, proved tough opposition, and although Ballyclare won 2-0, they had cause to be grateful to goalkeeper, Lorna Hill. The expected tight match with Dalriada High School in the semi-final did not materialise, and another 8-0 victory put Ballyclare through to



Ulster Junior Hockey Cup winners 1970. Back row: Miss Allen, Emma Beggs, Jane Todd, Lorna Hill, Marbeth Strange, Irene Montgomery, Mary Crothers, Miss Longstaff. Front row: Lavinia McAllister, Eunice McComb, Elaine Knox, Jill Hill (Captain), Audrey Bonnes, Lorna Bonnes.

the final. On 20th March 1970, the Under 14s took the field at Dixon Park, Belfast, against St. Dominic's for what proved to be their toughest match in the entire competition. The score at half-time was 0-0, but ten minutes into the second half Ballyclare forced a corner. Marbeth Strange took it, and Jill Hill drove the ball home. With half-backs, Irene Montgomery and Elaine Knox, showing top form, Ballyclare dominated the rest of the game and deservedly became Junior Cup winners, 1970. The hard work and dedication shown by all the girls, with coaching from Miss Allen and Miss Longstaff, had paid off in the end.

In 1971/72 interest was focused on the progress of the 1st XI. The team, captained by Jill Hill and inspired by Emma Beggs, obviously benefitted from the coaching course which many of the girls had attended at Orangefield the previous summer, for they started off the season by winning the Bangor 6-a-side tournament. As the team progressed in the early stages of the McDowell Cup, Jill Hill and Irene Montgomery were selected for Ulster trials, and a determined team reached the semi-finals. Their opponents were also their neighbours, Ballyclare High School, and a 3-0 victory gave them a place in the final against St. Dominic's, Belfast. The Ballyclare girls dominated the final throughout, but in the end they had to settle for a 1-1 draw, Lavinia McAllister scoring from a great solo effort. The 1st XI continued their good form right to the end of the season, finishing runners-up in the Antrim "Sixes", and sharing the Workman Cup, awarded annually to the school's best team, with the Under 15 basketballers.

The achievements of these girls in the early seventies has often obscured the efforts of other school hockey teams, but

it should be noted that several other Ballyclare Secondary sides took the field regularly every Saturday morning, and while they may not have won every match, they did show great enthusiasm for the game. In 1972/73 the 1st XI benefitted from having six of the girls from the previous season's successful side return to school. They won 19 of their 23 matches, with Audrey Bonnes scoring 26 of their 68 goals. The McDowell Cup final was reached again, but this time without a successful outcome, although Jill Hill was selected for Ulster Schools. The "golden age" of hockey came to an end in 1974/75 when the 1st XI were beaten in the semi-final of the McDowell Cup.

By the late seventies a new batch of coaches had joined the staff of the school. Mrs. W. Campbell, Miss Whittock and, later, Miss Neill had replaced Mrs. Dickey and Mrs. Caldwell in the P.E. Department. In 1978/79 the Under 14 XI proved to be Ballyclare's strongest team. With Alison Moore and Roberta McCarmond leading the attack, they rarely lost a match. After beating the powerful B.R.A. side in the 3rd round of the Junior Cup, the Under 14s were defeated for the only time that season in the quarter-final.

The continuing popularity of hockey was emphasised in 1979/80 when the school regularly fielded six teams — a 1st and 2nd XI, Under 14A and B XIs, an Under 13 XI and an Under 12 XI. Ruth Kirk captained the 1st XI to the quarter-final of the McDowell Cup. With Linda Wilson, Cathy Uprichard and Jackie Bell spearheading the attack, Ballyclare drew 0-0 with Omagh Academy at home, but lost in the replay. However, their dedication to hockey brought great credit to the school. Ruth Kirk's reward was to be selected for the final Ulster trial.

In the season 1982/83 Ballyclare brought home the very prestigious cup from the Antrim "Sixes". With Michelle Gilchrist in goals and Alison Moore, Roberta McCammond and Alison McCrea showing the way, they won their section convincingly, and went on to beat Ballymena Academy in the final.

Over recent years hockey has continued to grow in popularity within the school. With the formation of area teams, girls such as Alison Moore, Roberta McCammond, Jackie Hunter and Louise McConkey have found themselves going forward for trials and acquitting themselves well against much older and more experienced players. Roberta McCammond brought the most recent hockey honour to Ballyclare Secondary when in 1981/82 she was selected for the North-Eastern area side. In the last few years several Ballyclare girls have attended courses at Orangefield, where they have received excellent coaching and had a lot of fun as well. With continued hard work and commitment from all the girls, the next twenty-five years could prove even more fruitful than the past twenty-five.

Hockey for boys was first played seriously in the 1977/78 season. A group of 3rd Years competed in the Ferris Cup, a competition open to all hockey-playing schools in Ulster. For a first attempt, it worked quite well, and the Ballyclare lads certainly didn't disgrace themselves in such distinguished company as R.B.A.I., B.R.A. and Bangor Grammar School.

The following season the team was kept together, and entered for the prestigious Under 15 Richardson Cup. Ballyclare were beaten 1-3 away to Strabane Grammar School in the 2nd round, but with better finishing could have achieved a more favourable result.

Some "stars" of this first boys' hockey team were Ian Todd, Paul Logan, Uel Wallace and Norman Carmichael. Both Wallace and Carmichael still play hockey regularly for the local club side, Parkview.

In more recent years boys' hockey teams have continued to be entered for the Ferris Cup and Prior Shield, an Under 17 competition. More boys have gone on to play for Parkview, notably Paul and Michael Harvey and, more recently, Arnold Todd, who made the 1st XI last season.



Four pictures of the school's best-ever Hockey team. Top left, as Under 13s in 1969, they are shown with the George Dodds Shield. Pictured top right are the girls who won the Curran Cup in 1971. Bottom left, the girls on tour in Kendal, Cumbria, in 1972, the same year as they won the Bangor "Sixes" tournament (bottom right).

Soccer as an inter-school sport was introduced in Ballyclare Secondary right from the start. It proved to be extremely popular with boys of all ages, and by the 1963/64 season four teams — Minors (Under 12), Juniors (Under 13), Intermediates (Under 14) and Seniors (Under 15) — were operating regularly in East Antrim League and Cup competitions. Over the years since then not every age-group has been offered soccer, as the games programme has expanded to give pupils a taste of as wide a range of sporting activities as possible. However, since the early seventies an Under 16 team has operated, and it is unusual since then for there to have been a season when at least three school teams have not taken the field.

It was in the third year of the school's life that the first trophies were won. The Under 12s, coached by Mr. Middleton, captained by Ian Glenn and inspired by left-back, Colin Todd, won the East Antrim Cup, beating Greenland Secondary School in the final at Dixon Park. Later the same evening Mr. McClelland's Under 14s won their respective East Antrim Cup. Captained by right-half Eddie Beggs and prompted from midfield by Pat McCourt, a future Ballyclare Comrades player and manager, this side was one of the school's outstanding teams.

The second half of the decade saw a number of trophies won by the school's footballers. Perhaps the most pleasing triumph was that of Mr. Lyons' 1965/66 Under 15 team. Their very first match in school colours four years earlier had been a disaster for them, for they lost 1-10 at Greenland. Now, at the end of their fourth season in inter-school soccer, they became the first Ballyclare team to win a League Championship. One of the reasons for the improvement was their willingness to learn from their mistakes. Another was the arrival in school in 1964 of Johnny Elliott from Ballymena

Boys' Secondary. An inside-left, Johnny formed a devastating partnership with left-winger and skipper, Ernie McGookin.

The 1967/68 season was a good one for Mr. Millar's Under 14s. Skipped by Wynard Higgins, whose on-the-ball skills were a priceless asset in midfield, the team included a competent goalkeeper in Jackie McKeown and a strong centre-half in Sam Fee. Another member of the side, Roy Montgomery, later had a trial with Preston North End, then in the English First Division. It came as no surprise when the lads won the East Antrim League, and in 1968/69 collected the East Antrim Senior Cup, the same year as Mr. Middleton's Under 13 team, which included Francis Lorrimer, Barry Penny and Rodney Turkington, won the East Antrim Cup.

It was to be some years before a Ballyclare team won another soccer trophy, but the 1973/74 season saw the beginning of a football revival. The Under 12s, coached by Mr. Todd, won the East Antrim Cup. The final against Greenland was contested in splendid style by Graham Rankin's boys at Dixon Park. Rankin was to prove one of the school's best soccer captains during his time at Ballyclare Secondary, before he emigrated to Canada in 1975. Another sign of the improvement in standards was the selection of John Busby of the Under 16 team for the Northern Ireland Schoolboy squad, and Colin Crawford (later to spend two seasons with Sunderland F.C.) and Gerald Jenkins of the Under 14 side for the East Antrim District XI.

The 1974/75 season saw Graham Rankin's side, now Under 13s, win the East Antrim League, and narrowly fail to achieve a unique "double" when they lost 1-2 to Hopefield in the Cup Final. During the course of that season the Under 13s set up another record, taking their unbeaten run to twenty-three games, the best ever by a Ballyclare side. That



The 1963/64 Under 14 East Antrim Cup winners. Back row: Mr. McClelland, T. Kenny, D. Suitters, C. Montgomery, H. Fenton, Mr. Lyons. Front row: L. McConnell, E. McGookin, B. Reid, E. Beggs, P. McCourt, N. Reid, J. Crooks.



The 1967/68 Under 14 East Antrim League winners. Back row: Mr. Millar, D. Beattie, R. Montgomery, J. Robinson, J. McKeown, K. Moore, T. Gilmore, Mr. Lyons. Front row: J. Montgomery, S. Fee, W. Higgins (Captain), A. Penny, S. Turkington.



League-winning side contained a number of good players like Steven Glass, "Junior" Higgins, Jeffrey Crone and Hugh Hunter, and their goal-keeper, Uel McCabe, was possibly the school's best ever, but their best feature was the excellence of their teamwork. They remained unchanged in personnel for three years, developing a style based on sound defence, quick, decisive breaks and an excellent understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses. In 1975/76 they reached their third successive Cup Final, and Glass, Crone, Hunter and John Blair were selected for East Antrim Schools. That same season the Under 16s, under their new coach, Mr. Todd, also reached the Cup Final, only to lose to Greenland. However, there was reason to celebrate, even in defeat, for this team, which included such stalwarts as Colin Crawford, Jim Gault, Nigel Beattie and Alan Hunter, had won only three games in the previous four years. The skipper, Gerald Jenkins, went on to help organise the successful "Old Boys" team which played between 1982 and 1984.

Although the school produced several fine footballers over the next few years (Jackie Bell and Brian Horner spring immediately to mind), it was to be 1980/81 before another trophy was won. The Under-15 team of that year, coached by Mr. Todd and skippered by Terry Bell, became only the second team in the school's history to win a League title at this level, when they ended a marvellous year as Mid-Antrim champions. They had less than their full complement of really skillful players, although Bell, Nigel Hurst and Jim Buchanan were talented boys, but they did have a great team spirit, which saw them through some tough matches, especially the league play-off against Cullybackey High School. Buchanan was a year younger than the other boys in this side, and in 1982/83 he captained Mr. Todd's Under 16s to the Mid-Antrim League title. The team included several enthusiastic players, such as Norman Higgins in the centre of the defence, Danny McFall and Colin Blake in midfield, and the unpredictable striker, James Wilson. It was nice to see



The 1968/69 Under 13 East Antrim Cup winners. Back row: Mr. Middleton, J. Higgins, R. Turkington, A. Murray, L. Barclay, W. Farquhar, W. McClean, R. Jenkins. Middle row: J. Murdoch, P. Frizzell, F. Lorrimer (Captain), R. McGookin, B. Penny. Front row: S. Dundee, I. Glass, J. Black, T. Ferguson.





The 1974/75 East Antrim Under 13 League Champions. Back row: James McIlroy, A. Burnim, H. Hunter, C. Jenkins, U. McCabe, J. Crone, S. Glass, T. Higgins, Mr. Todd. Front row: Jackie McIlroy, P. Montgomery, J. Blair, G. Rankin (Captain), J. Robinson, N. Gilmour.



these boys win a trophy in their last season at school, for they had come so close in earlier years, notably in 1979/80, when they were beaten in the Mid-Antrim Under 13 Cup Final, and in 1981/82 when, after a really fine season of attacking football, they lost narrowly in the Mid-Antrim Under 15 League Play-off.

The most recent success came in the 1984/85 season when Mr. Blair's Under 12 team, with Samuel Higgins the side's leading marksman, shared the Mid-Antrim Cup, after an exciting tussle with Cullybackey High School at Allen Park, Antrim.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Over the years there has always been a good response from the girls to the school's netball programme. The most productive period for the Netball Club was in the early and

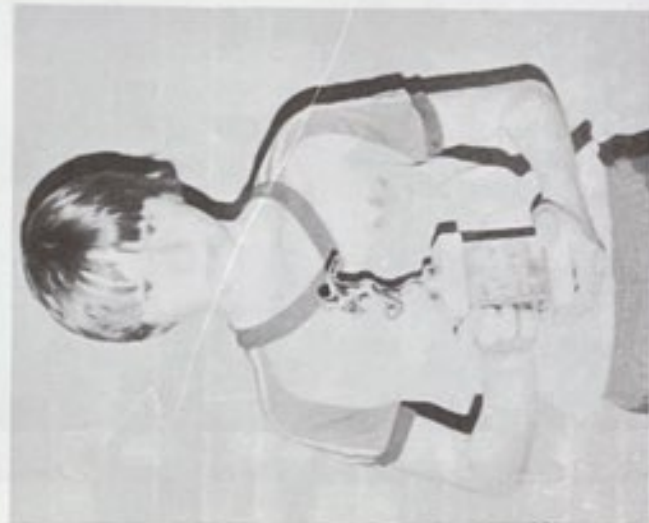
mid-seventies. The first school side to win a major trophy was the Intermediate (Under 14) team of 1970/71, in which season Jacqueline Tracey captained them to the County Antrim League Championship. Girls such as Jill Hill and Mary Crothers displayed their skills that year on the netball court as well as on the hockey pitch, and with contributions from Eunice McComb, Jane Todd, Lorna Hill and Iris Burns, the team's performances made it one of the best the school has ever produced.

School netball during the 1970/71 season was dominated by the performances of May Christie, captain of the Intermediate side, who was selected for the County Antrim team. May was a player of considerable skill and determination, and set a great example to her team mates. Although the Intermediates won no trophies that year, they did enjoy a successful tour of Scotland, beating Ayr



The 1980/81 Mid Antrim Under 15 League Champions. Back row: Mr. Todd, S. Reid, R. McCalmont, T. Carmichael, G. Ellison, N. Hurst, G. Wilson, J. Wilson. Front row: J. Buchanan, J. Wright, T. Bell (Captain), N. Jenkins, G. Girvan, J. Simms. Inset: D. McFall.





The Footballer of the Year Trophy was inaugurated in 1977/78. The winners have been, on the top row, Hugh Hunter (1977/78), Alex Henry (1978/79), Tommy Robinson (1979/80), Terry Bell (1980/81), and on the bottom row, Jim Buchanan (1981/82), James Wilson (1982/83), Malcolm Brown (1983/84) and James Wright (1984/85). The trophy was not awarded in 1985/86.



The 1963/64 Under 15 Netball team. The captain, Anne Arthurs, is second from the right on the front row.

Academy 15-10 and Saint Margaret's Convent, Edinburgh, 14-13. Two other girls, both of whom played for the Junior team, began to make their marks on the netball court. Joan Penny and Audrey Bonnes contributed much to their side's efforts to win their section of the County Antrim League. Alas, they had to be content with second place, but the Minor team, for which a young Ann Christie starred all season, did manage to finish top of its section, only to be beaten by Ballymoney Secondary School in the quarter-final of the County Antrim Cup.

In 1973/74 the Seniors were beaten narrowly in the County League finals. Without the indisposed Joan Penny, they went down to Friends' School, Lisburn. That same season, the Juniors finished second to Parkhall Secondary School in their section, and the Minors lost narrowly to Stella Maris in the County Antrim quarter-final. The following year the Intermediates had an outstanding season, finishing runners-up in the Northern Ireland League and winners of the North-Eastern League Cup.

For the rest of the decade the popularity of netball amongst the girls continued apace. Although the amount of success enjoyed by Ballyclare Secondary School teams in terms of results was not enormous, the enjoyment which the girls derived from simply playing remained high.

In 1980 Miss Neill joined the staff of the Physical Education Department and took charge of the Netball Club. Four teams turned out regularly — Minors, Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors — which had not always been the case in the past. Girls such as Carol McClay and Katrina Ross were among the better players, and in 1984/85 the most successful school netball team was the Intermediates, with Ann Halliday, Alison Dillon and Elizabeth Ross holding the side together. In that season it was decided to play only "friendly" fixtures and concentrate on improving skills. The girls began the Sugar Ability Netball Award Scheme, where they are able to progress from bronze to gold level.



The 1970/71 Under 14 County Antrim League Champions, the first Ballyclare Secondary School side to win a major netball trophy. Back row: Jane Todd, Jill Hill, Lorna Hill, Iris Burns. Front row: Mary Crothers, Jacqueline Tracey (Captain), Eunice McComb.



Winners of the 1974 County Antrim Senior Netball Tournament. Back row: Mrs. Dickey, Ann Christie, Sharon Wilson, Caroline Bonnes, Mrs. Caldwell. Front row: Rosemary Dundee, Honor Blair, Sharon McGrugan, Valerie Adamson.

Gymnastics is a sport which has only been offered to girls in the last six years. The Club, enthusiastically organised by Miss Whittock, is well-equipped, and girls are able to develop their vaulting, floor and beam work. By following the B.A.G.A. Award Scheme, gymnasts can progress from simple agilities to more difficult movements. Grade 4 is the basic award and Grade 1 the hardest. Jacqueline Dunn, as a 5th Year in 1979/80, was the first girl to obtain her B.A.G.A. 1, and since then girls such as Ardrina Reynolds, Dawn Baird, Janice Kane and Tanya Blackadder have followed suit. Dawn has been one of the school's most competent gymnasts over the years. She has been helped by the fact that she has been able to take part in several competitions outside school. She and Tanya Blackadder, for example, were placed 1st and 2nd respectively in a competition at Avoniel Gymnastics Club in 1985. Only recently Sharon Reid and Louise Elliott became the first girls from the school to gain Bronze and Silver Awards in Sports Acrobatics, a type of gymnastics which involves working with a partner. Currently over forty girls hold B.A.G.A. awards.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Squash was first organised on a competitive basis in 1979 when Mr. Manson joined the staff of the school. The Club was open to Senior Boys, who practised regularly at Antrim Forum. In 1981/82 an Under 16 team consisting of Terry Bell, Nigel Hurst, Jackie Wright and Nigel Jenkins won the short-lived East Antrim League, and Bell went on to win the first Ballyclare Secondary School Open Tournament, sponsored by "Newsbeat". The one other winner of this trophy was Keith Shanks in 1983/84. In the 1981/82 and 1982/83 seasons Ballyclare competed in the Coca-Cola Schools' Squash

League, but after a year without squash in 1983/84, the Club was opened to boys in 2nd and 4th Forms in 1984/85, when a squash ladder gave the boys regular games. Recently the Club has become open to girls as well as boys. The most consistent performers in recent seasons have been Paul McCammond, Robert Forsythe, Mark Turkington and Jason Thompson.



The 1981/82 East Antrim Under 16 Squash Champions, Nigel Hurst, Terry Bell and Jackie Wright.

From about the beginning of the seventies an attempt was made to field one rugby team per season. The team was usually made up from boys in 4th, 5th and 6th Forms. Although results were rarely outstanding, a number of boys were introduced to the game, and some became sufficiently interested to continue with the sport after they left school with Ballyclare Rugby Football Club and other sides. The best player of the seventies was Mervyn Alexander, who in 1977 was selected for the Ulster Under 19 squad. Others who stood out in the seventies were Ivor Wilson, Holmes Crothers, Lindsay Geary, Michael McClean, Ivor McKeown and James Kelly. Rugby amongst the senior boys was discontinued in 1978, but the game was revived among 1st and 2nd Year boys at the start of the 1982/83 season, when the school entered Under 12 and Under 13 teams in the newly-inaugurated East Antrim Leagues. No trophies were offered, and matches (9-a-side and 12-a-side), with slightly-amended rules, were played purely for the fun of it. The boys were taught the basics of the game by Mr. McAlister and Mr. Blair, and several promising players such as Paul Topping, Colin McGookin and Colin Irvine emerged.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Many girls, despite the wind, rain and slow track, have turned out for track and field athletics over the last twenty-five years. One of the most outstanding athletes in the history of the school was Deidre McAllister. Deidre showed all the determination and enthusiasm needed to be a top class competitor. She set her first school record in 1974 when as a 1st Year she jumped 4.30 m in the Long Jump. That record

has been equalled, by Helen Mitchell in 1977, but never beaten. As a 2nd Year in 1975 Deidre went on to set another Long Jump record of 4.56 m, which still stands in 1986. Not only did she achieve a new Long Jump record of 4.57 m as a 3rd Year, but also set a new school record in the Shot of 8.90 m, both of which still stand to-day. In 1977 she broke the school record for 100 metres with a time of 13.40 seconds, and it was not until 1982, when Helen Mitchell jumped 5.05 m that Deidre lost her record in the 4th Year Long Jump.

It is perhaps fitting that it should be Helen Mitchell who broke these long jumping records set by Deidre McAllister. Helen was a conscientious and enthusiastic athlete and her training with Ballymena Athletics Club was of great assistance to her in her school athletics.

Helen monopolised the Long Jump competition throughout her school career and was also a very fine sprinter. But it was not until 1981 as an Under 15 that she achieved great honour for herself and Ballyclare Secondary School, when she became the All-Ireland Schools Champion. She began her path to victory in the district heats with a jump of 4.85 m, which was enough to put her through to the Ulster Finals, where she jumped 5.05 m in the competition at Shaw's Bridge, Belfast. This jump took her into the All-Ireland Finals in Dublin, where she sealed the championship for herself by jumping 5.17 m. Helen, in her time at school, displayed the courage and self-discipline required to be a first class athlete, and after leaving, she continued to take part in competitions with Ballymena A.A.C. Her name is still in the school record book for her Under 16 Long Jump of 5.05 m.

In 1983 another outstanding athlete began to emerge.



The 1976/77 Senior Rugby team. Back row: Mr. Siberny, J. Wilson, J. McMullan, D. Beattie, G. Buckley, D. Reid, S. McConkey, Mr. Stirling. Front row: W. Dennison, D. Stewart, E. Hill, M. Alexander, M. Crawford, D. Close.

Janice Kane started to show that she was not only a fine sprinter, but a very talented high jumper. As a 1st Year she set a new school 400 metre record of 71.54 seconds, and as a 2nd Year in 1984 she raised the High Jump record to 1.39 m. That same season Janice finished first in the North-Eastern Area High Jump heats at Carrickfergus, and went on to win in the finals at Coleraine. However, it was as a 3rd Year in 1985 that Janice found her best form. On Sports Day the only school records to be broken were by her — 13.49 seconds in the 100 metres, 27.63 seconds in the 200 metres and 1.42 m in the High Jump. In 1986 Janice again qualified for the North-Eastern finals, but was unable to take part because of illness.

There are many girls who have not made it into the record books, but who have done their best for their houses on Sports Day, girls such as Laverne Higgins and Yvonne Whitehouse, Karen Maxwell who, despite her tiny frame, jumped a staggering 1.33 metres in the High Jump in 1984, Coreen Shaw, just out of hospital after an appendix operation and setting a new school 400 metre record in 1982, or Shona Cross claiming the newcomers' record in the Long Jump at the 1982 triangular meeting at Belfast High School.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Nowadays cross-country running for boys has been all but forgotten as a school sport. Yet in the sixties it was an important after-school activity. The sport was given a tremendous boost in 1964 by the arrival on the staff of Mr. Platt, who was instrumental in building up the membership of the Cross-country Club to around forty boys of all ages. The best of the bunch were John Witherhead, James Sempey, Bryce Anderson, Ronnie Agnew, William Armstrong and

Brian McNeilly. In October 1964 they won the Wilson Shield, and in 1965 Sempey finished fourth in the Northern Ireland Schoolboy Championships. By 1967 the Cross-country Club was about to reach the climax of its achievements. Sempey, Witherhead, Anderson and Agnew represented the school in the Northern Ireland Under 16 Championships at Dundonald, where they finished first. In the All-Ireland Championships two weeks later over the same course, only a nasty injury to Bryce Anderson, the most naturally gifted of the Ballyclare lads, prevented the school from justifying its "favourites" tag. Ballyclare finished fifth.

In the second half of the decade, the most outstanding performer was Kenny Higgins. Others who are remembered for their dedication to this most demanding of sports at that time are Trevor Patton, Colin Ardis and Kenny McBride. But as the "soft seventies" arrived, so it seemed that boys were not prepared to put in the required amount of training to compete with other schools, and the Cross-country Club folded.

As the Boys' Cross-country Club was fast fading, so the Girls' Club came of age, and in 1972 a Ballyclare Secondary team of Sharon McNeill, Mary Lutton, Jennifer Clugston, Doreen Curran, Margaret Dunn and Joy Forsythe won the County Antrim Championships. Much credit for this went to coaches, Miss Brown and Miss Coleman. Cross-country running has remained quite popular among the girls, with the outstanding competitor of recent times being Angela Beckett. However, jogging has now become more fashionable, and in the last few years Ballyclare teams have taken part in a number of "Fun Runs" over 10 kilometres or 6 miles. These events have been used primarily as a means of raising money for charity. The most recent test for the girls was a triathlon at the start of this year. Running, cycling and



Members of highly successful Cross-Country Club in the mid-sixties. Mr. Platt is on the extreme right on the back row.

swimming tested the stamina and determination of the Ballyclare girls to the full.



In this section of the magazine we have been looking at the success of school teams. Not everyone has the ability to get a place on a school side, but those who haven't can still take part in sporting activities during the annual house competitions. Indeed, more excitement is often generated by the house competitions than by inter-school games. As most readers will

excitement during the games competitions — soccer, rugby, basketball and cross-country for boys, and hockey, netball and cross-country for girls, while the athletics events on Sports Day in June (it has rained only once in twenty-five years) bring the whole show to a thrilling climax.



Each year readers of "Newsbeat" vote for their Sports Personality of the Year. The first winner in 1971/72 was Kenny



The 1972 County Antrim Senior Cross-country Champions. Back row: Miss Brown, Sharon McNeill, Mary Lutton, Miss Coleman. Front row: Jennifer Clugston, Doreen Curran, Margaret Dunn, Joy Forsythe.

know, this is the time of the year when football boots are cleaned and hockey sticks dusted down by pupils who, under normal circumstances, would not know a hockey stick or a basketball from a pogo-stick or a sack of flour! The House Championship is won by the house which gains most points from games and athletics. Five cups in all are at stake — the Lindsay Cup for Boys' Games, the Sharples Cup for Girls' Games, the Roy Dickey Cup for Boys' Athletics and the Jean Ross Cup for Girls' Athletics, while the Parents' Challenge Shield goes to the House Champions. There is always great

Higgins, the cross-country runner. It was quite in character for Kenny to get time off work to come back to school and receive the trophy in assembly. He was also the only winner ever to treat the audience to a speech. The "Newsbeat" Sports Personality of the Year trophy has since become the school's most eagerly sought-after award, and after Kenny subsequent winners were Paul Frizzell (1972/73), Joan Penny (1973/74), Gerald Jenkins (1974/75), Colin Crawford (1975/76), Steven Glass (1976/77), Ian Todd (1977/78, 1978/79 and 1979/80), Jim Buchanan and Alison Moore (Joint winners



Two "Newsbeat" Sports Personalities of the Year. Above, Ian Todd (right) gets the autograph of Manchester United star, Lou Macari, on the football tour to Liverpool and Manchester in 1979. Below, Steven Glass slides home the opening goal against Unity Boys Club, Liverpool, in 1980.

1980/81), Roberta McCammond (1981/82), Michael Harvey (1982/83), Jacqueline Hunter (1983/84) and Ann Halliday (1984/85). There was no school sport in 1985/86 because of industrial action, and the trophy was not awarded.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Whether it is inter-school sport or the more domestic activities of the house competitions, it is refreshing to note that pupils have always shown the right approach to games.

Whatever the outcome of a match, the important thing is to enjoy it, and this has been the philosophy of all teachers who have looked after sports teams in the last twenty-five years. It is also worth recording that these teachers coach teams voluntarily and, but for their efforts, there would have been no sport to enjoy.

So, to all pupils and teachers involved with sport, we say thanks for the time you give up, thanks for the entertainment with which you have provided us, thanks for the trophies won, and above all, thanks for coaching and playing the game in the very best traditions of Ballyclare Secondary School sportsmanship.