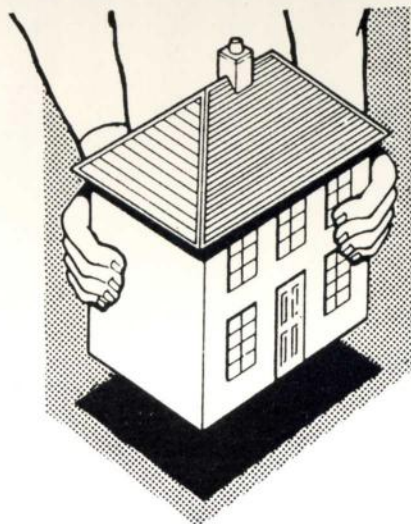




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From the Rector's chair

Celebration is the keynote of our magazine - and after 25 years in the present building we have much to celebrate and recall - the many successes, the many rewarding and enjoyable times.

Celebration is never justified only by looking back, but should serve also to inspire the school community of today to strive for and achieve just as much as those who have gone before us.

This magazine, prepared by past and present pupils and staff, is a true celebration of the paths by which we have reached our silver jubilee in Kilwinning and of the thoughts and concerns of St Michael's as we poise ourselves for the next quarter century.

Credits

This magazine has been produced through the efforts of many staff and pupils, past and present, and coordinated by a magazine committee consisting of Mrs M Merrick, Mrs J Buchert, Mrs W Dorrian, Mrs R A Mitchell, Mr J Aitken, Mr I J Dickson and Mr J G M Walsh. Thanks are also due to Mr Malkin who took many of the photographs and to printer John Geddes, who took two of our pupils for work experience during the time the magazine was being prepared.



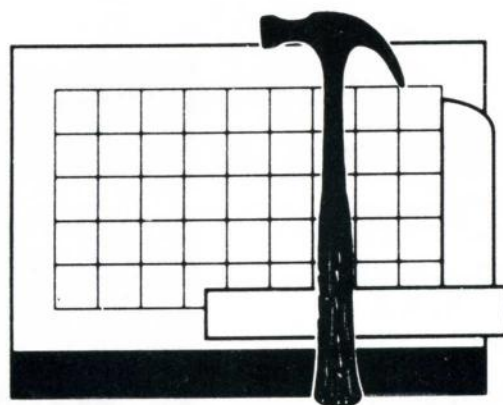
Mr. Bruce Millan M.P., performing the official opening ceremony.



Sister Pauline, CP, former headmistress, and Mr James McCutcheon, Head Teacher, with the jubilee cake at the celebration in November 1990.

L&A

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Back in the Classroom

Well, here we go again; back into a situation which occurred so many years ago, when I was five. I've started school again! I'm back in the classroom and all that it entails - teachers, homework and exams! I must be a glutton for punishment!

It seemed a good idea at the time. I thought I could sail in there, and as I had already passed my "O" Grades and Highers, I expected it to be a "piece of cake". Yes, no problem, I said to myself, convinced that I could walk away with the Dux Medal.

Things couldn't have been more different. I was quite amazed at the work-load that children have to cope with. Talk about "burning the midnight oil". I was still making my bed in the morning when I was still in it!

On my first day, I was extremely nervous. I had no idea what to expect. I asked myself all sorts of questions. Would the children accept me? Would they talk to me? Would they realise that despite the fact that I am an adult student, I still like a bit of a laugh and I hoped above all that I would be accepted.

I have not been disappointed. The kids in my classes are the best: a credit to their school. They have helped me and accepted me as one of them, just another classmate.

My experience of returning to school has been very rewarding, giving me a great deal of pleasure and making me appreciative of the education system today and all it can offer.

Mary E Black, Returning Adult Student

Staff Bulletin Extracts

The first ever Staff Bulletin in St Michael's was published by Peter Maxwell on 1st September, 1976. The bulletin became a *daily* in 1979. Peter and his trusty typewriter continued until . . . issue 157 in 1979; thereafter the office staff took over. Here and other pages you will find extracts . . .

1976: Phil McDermott (PT Business Studies) has gone to Jersey and is succeeded by Miss Maisie Conway.

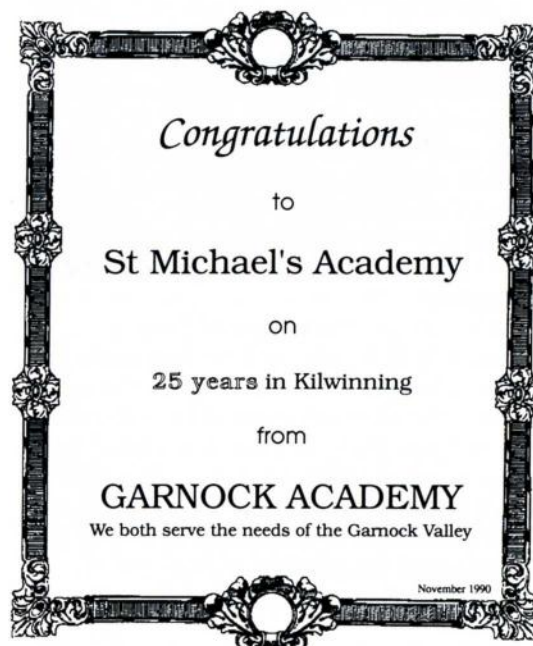
The Dining Hall is serving 630 meals in 55 minutes. Two teachers and four prefects are on duty in two teams per day.

A collage, illustrating the history of Irvine New Town done by our History pupils is being exhibited in IDC.

Congratulations to Archie Whyte on his promotion to PT Music at St. Mungo's and to Alan Mousley, now APT Guidance.

Grace McKinlay is organising a trip to Belgium. Mr. Scullion is now fitted to the Padre's room where he will be able to give Guidance in an altogether more appropriate environment. Prayer mats are not strictly necessary.

Miss Maisie Wade having, in her own words, *completed her education* bows out of teaching. We wish her every happiness and thank her for that last imperishable comment on her driving: *My Examiner, God rest him . . .*



Sister Pauline, C.P. Headmistress of St Michael's 1950-1976

In 1950, on the retiral of Sister Mechtilde Joseph, Sister Pauline was appointed Headmistress of St Michael's. Sister Pauline had been a member of staff since 1940 and was, therefore, a familiar figure to pupils. During the twenty-six years of her headship, Sister Pauline served the school community with enthusiasm and tireless dedication. Her keen intellect was matched by a selfless dedication to duty; and her duty, as she saw it, was the moral well-being and educational furtherance of the pupils of St Michael's.

It was a time of change in schools, but, as Mr James Wallace, Director of Education, said at Sister Pauline's Retiral Dinner - "Sister Pauline did not ever complain; she accepted inconveniences such as shortages of staff and increasing demands with patience and perseverance. She was a true servant of the school and of education."

The highlight of Sister Pauline's tenure of office was, undoubtedly, the removal, in 1965, from Irvine to the new school in Kilwinning. The school had been long-awaited, since its predecessor had been destroyed by fire in 1939. By 1964 the secondary school roll was about 700 - classes were held in the Convent and sixteen huts had been erected in the playground in Irvine. The new school was officially opened on 3rd June 1966 by Bruce Millan, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland. On that day one of the speakers pronounced Sister Pauline "the finest Principal in the whole of Ayrshire".

When Sister Pauline retired from St Michael's in 1976, she went to Ballycastle in Northern Ireland where, until 1979, she taught Classics. She then volunteered for missionary duty in Africa because there was a need for experienced educationists there. This was typical of Sister Pauline's unselfish nature and of her dedication to duty; from 1979 until 1989 she occupied the position of Principal of Cathedral Commercial School, Gaberone, Botswana.

During her decade in Africa, Sister Pauline worked tirelessly for the good of her pupils. Conditions were very different from those to which she had been accustomed in St Michael's, but this did not deter her in any

way. She gave unstintingly of her time, and of herself, in the service of God's people. One of the most memorable moments for Sister during these ten years was her meeting with Pope John Paul when he visited Botswana in September 1988.

In 1989 Sister Pauline retired for a second time when she left Botswana to return to Britain. However, she reserves a special place in her heart for the people with whom and for whom she worked in Africa. She is now living in Mount St Joseph in Bolton where she is engaged in Archive Research for the Cross and Passion Order.

It was a privilege to have this outstanding lady as our guest of honour at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations on 7th November. All members of the School Community of St Michael's wish Sister Pauline many years of health and happiness. Her life has indeed borne witness to our school motto *Aeterna Non Caduca*.

Logo Club 91

A small group of first year pupils meet with Mrs MacMahon and Mr Docherty in the BBC Lab on Thursdays at lunchtime. The aim of the group is to provide a fun environment in which pupils can become more familiar with **LOGO** *a high level computer language with a difference!*

Its special feature is a small pen-carrying robot which is driven by simple commands but can be programmed to draw shapes of almost any description. Logo can also be used to make music, write adventure games, build databases and crunch numbers.

Memories of Old St Michael's

Some Reminiscences from Miss Catherine Brosnan - Former Pupil and Former Teacher of St Michael's.

My family came to Ayr from Northumberland in 1917; two years later we moved to Southwood, Monkton. My two sisters and I went to St Patrick's Primary School, Troon on 17th March, 1919. We had about three miles to walk to and from school. In those days there was no bus service.

In August, 1922, I was one of a few pupils sent to St Michael's College in Irvine. The College had opened on 7th November, 1921, with seven pupils. This was the first Catholic Secondary School in Ayrshire. When I arrived the total school roll numbered sixty eight. Pupils came from North and South Ayrshire.

The College had not been built, so we occupied two rooms in the Convent. The Headmistress was Sister Mechtilde Joseph, C.P. She was an exceedingly strict disciplinarian, and she governed the pupils mainly by the stern look in her eye.

Our uniform was a long navy blue gym tunic, a long-sleeved white blouse with high neck, black shoes and stockings, along with a special type of hat and school badge. On our way to and from College, girls had to wear gloves. "Ladies are never seen without gloves" was a maxim instilled into us with great regularity. We were not allowed to have special friends from among our fellow pupils. However, despite the fact that we had all these rules to remember, we managed to survive and do well. Perhaps the strict discipline worked!

I left St Michael's in June 1926, and the following September entered Glasgow School of Art, where I studied Art and Crafts for four years until June 1930. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Art School. In October of the same year, I went to Jordanhill College to do six months teacher training.

After a short Easter holiday, I returned to St Michael's College, Irvine, on 13th April 1931. I

was the first former pupil to become a teacher there. I was, understandably, somewhat nervous at returning to my 'alma mater', but I soon settled down. Staff were very kind to me, and gave me a warm welcome.

The College was destroyed by fire in October 1939; everything was lost. Once again, the Convent was used by some classes; huts were built and some members of staff and pupils had to go to Irvine Royal Academy for accommodation.

In 1950, Sister Pauline C.P. was appointed Headmistress. Shortly afterwards the boys, who had previously been obliged to leave at the end of Third Year to continue their studies at Glasgow, Paisley or Kilmarnock, were now allowed to complete their education at St Michael's.



James Mc Cutcheon, Sister Pauline & Miss Cathie Brosnan

A new school was built in Kilwinning and was opened in 1965. It was named St Michael's Academy in 1967.

I enjoyed my years of teaching at St Michael's; the majority of the pupils were well-behaved and did their level best to work. During my years as Principal Teacher of Art, I had a number of budding artists among my pupils; this made my work both stimulating and rewarding.

On 25th August 1970, I retired from teaching. I had completed a total of thirty nine years and eighty three days. I can hardly believe that it is now over twenty years since I retired.

We wish Miss Brosnan good health for many years to come. When she retired in 1970, Mr Stephen Hunter, Art Organiser, wrote to her saying: *There will be many pupils with good reason to think with gratitude of the aesthetic and moral attitudes you so faithfully propagated.*



St. Michael's pupils at school picnic to Dundonald, 1925

Recollections of 1965 – The Old and the New

Pupils carrying coal to feed fires in huttred classrooms? Yes, this was commonplace in the years after the 'great fire' of 1939 which destroyed most of the old St Michael's College in Irvine. Today's "centrally-heated" pupils might find it difficult to believe that this was a regular chore for their counterparts of yesteryear. Photographs taken in the 50s and 60s show that our school premises were two small single storey brick buildings and a great collection of huts.

Daily Assemblies for the whole school were conducted by Sister Pauline in a packed corridor in what could be called the main building, but which contained only a few secondary classrooms, the Primary School, the Office and the so-called Staffroom.

The Staffroom was so small that only about twelve people could, at a crush, occupy it. It was said that only one person needed to light a cigarette - everyone else enjoyed, or endured, the inhalation! Most of the male staff could be found at breaktimes in Vincent Campbell's Art Room where there was space, camaraderie and plenty of humour.

Many of our former pupils will remember the lingering smell of meals long since consumed, while they took Physical Education (or was it called PT then?) in the Dining Room which was in the other brick building. This could be found by trudging, usually in the rain, to the

furthest point of the School campus - that is, near the Moor. The Moor- how many remember Sports Days in those wide open spaces?

The recent death of Mr P J Leahy, the school's first Depute Headteacher (RIP), reminded me of that memorable period when the school was being transferred to Kilwinning. It was his task to mastermind the transportation of equipment and materials; the quantities of goods and chattels, quite apart from textbooks, unearthed during the month of June from stores, cupboards and lockers were remarkable. Packing and ferrying these materials was a major undertaking. Mr. Leahy was, in those days, quite a motorist: his Sunbeam Rapier (a racing variant of the Hillman Minx) could be seen every day for weeks speeding between Irvine and Kilwinning along the then new by-pass.

The contrast between the primitive environment of huts and the palatial surroundings in which we found ourselves was dramatic and, of course, most welcome. Did you know that the corridor walls were papered? Such was the pupils' respect for their new facilities that the paper remained intact on the walls, and there was no graffiti, for years!

The situation of the school in 1965 was idyllic: the countryside stretched into the distance from the perimeter of our beautifully maintained Sports fields. The Pennyburn and Whitehurst Housing Estates existed only on the drawing board.

Lunchtimes in the new Dining Hall were very orderly and highly civilised. Pupils were ushered in quietly, seated in silence (well, almost) and Sister Pauline said the Grace. Of course, there was no alternative to the balanced, two-course meal; 'extras' were often available and were sought after by hungry pupils - usually, I have to admit, boys!

My abiding recollections of the new school are of an immaculate, inspiring environment and, more importantly, of a purposeful and contented School Community. Staff and pupils (well, 99% of the latter!) worked harmoniously under the dedicated leadership of Sister Pauline.

John Mitchell

Computing comes to St Michael's

The Computer, a Cromemco 22, came to the school from the Scottish Micro-Electronics Development Project.

The SMDP had asked for ideas for the use of micro-computers in education. The best 26 were given a computer to try out their ideas.

To date ours has been used to create some computer assisted learning packages and the processing of 3rd year marks and class lists. In the future we are hoping for graphics capabilities and the circuit board necessary to connect the computer with science apparatus.

Some S3 and S5 pupils have been given the opportunity to learn programming in the BASIC language. One said, "It is useful and enjoyable. A never to be missed opportunity".

Mr Pentleton was asked why pupils need experience of computers. He said, "Computers will become cheaper and the day is not far off where each household could have its own computer. In the light of these developments it is essential that pupils should gain 'hands-on' experience."

Daniel Moriarty S3 (1980)

The march of technology..

The second computer arrived in 1981. It was the Sinclair ZX81, complete with 1k of memory. That was the one with the 'autoteller' keyboard... rumour has it that one Assistant Head Teacher (who shall remain nameless) tried to reveal the 'real' keys underneath by peeling it off. It seems hard to believe now, but staff thronged to put their name on a list to take turns in borrowing it. The waiting time was one month.....

The third computer was the Apple II. Can you imagine twenty teachers watching a disc being formatted?

The BBC years started in 1981. The first model B was purchased by the school fund, and the second by the Kilwinning Rotary Club.

A computer room was provided in the new extension, and formal classes began with S1 'Computer Awareness' in 1983. Three BBCs were joined to the Apple II using the 'Piconet' system, invented in Paisley. Split classes allowed a ratio of five pupils to each computer.

1985 saw the Econet network. 'Leisure Computing' appeared on the timetable, followed by 16-18, now known as SCOTVEC Modules. Standard Grade began in 1986, followed by



Stephen McAvoy, Harjinder Uppal, Paul Murphy and Michelle Rodden in 1988.

Success in Computing 1985

Several of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools reported in June 1985. "St Michael's Academy is one of the leading schools in the country in micro-computing."

Higher in 1988. For the record, the first pupil to achieve a Standard Grade 1 award was Hazel Meikle, and the first to pass the Higher was John Dougan.

We now have three specialist computer rooms (two with Apple Macintosh computers), used mainly for Computing Studies and Business Studies. Many other computer systems are spread throughout the school in different departments. In addition, the school office has two computers for administration.

Computers are used to support the teaching of every subject, from R.E. to P.E. and H.E. to Music. Geography even has a satellite dish connected to a computer to receive weather pictures. Computers also play a role in parents' evenings, when the 'School Stack' provides an introduction to the school.

St Michael's is also connected in a wider sense to every other school in Scotland via the CAMPUS 2000 system. If anyone would like to 'drop us a line' our mailbox number is 01:PVE064. We would be delighted to hear from you!

John G M Walsh

Computer Development Officer

SPORTS FEATURE - 1



1989 Mini-Marathon - First Years on the run.



What a ferocious bunch!

Ladies staff hockey team before their match against the seniors, Summer 1990.



1989 Mini-Marathon - Clowning about.



Session 88-89

Seven girls reached the final squad of the under eleven Scottish netball. J Darroch, M Pollock, K A McNeill, J Boyle, E Smith,

G Aire and C Kelly.

SPORTS FEATURE – 2



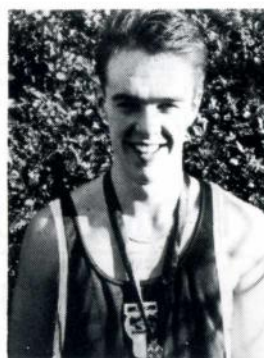
Comic Relief 1989 - Mr Dorrian (Geography) weathering the storm.



Comic Relief 1989 - Karate display with Mark O'Neill and Sean Anderson.



Sport 1990 - A photo finish between Gaynor Strannigan and Sharon Brown in the second year girls relay race.



Brian Holliman
400m Scottish
Schoolboy
Champion

I started running seriously in the winter of 1988 with Irvine AC. Until this time I had been running middle distance events and cross country, but decided to move down to the sprint events.

In 1988 I finished runner-up in the Ayrshire Championships in the 400m. 1990 began very well when I finished second in the Scottish under twenty indoor championships over 400m, setting a new personal best. My first outdoor run of the year was at Grangemouth where I was first over 60m and 300m. At the end of the year I was third in the West of Scotland championships again over 400m with a personal best time.

The highlight so far was winning the Scottish schoolboys 400m with a personal best time of 50.05 seconds. The following week I finished fourth I am hopeful of further success.

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St. Michael's: Mark Two

from SMART May 1977

Due to the influx of people to Bourtreehill, the Education Department has decided to build an annex to St. Michael's, work beginning in 1981.

"This extension", said Mr. McCutcheon, "will hopefully provide further classrooms, a games hall and a dining area." It will accommodate up to 500 pupils but as yet we have no idea when it will be completed.

In the nearer future, this year in fact, the two cloakrooms will be changed into much needed classrooms, one of which will go to the fast moving Mrs Tannahill who at present takes her class wherever there is a vacant room. As far as the cloakroom is concerned there will be a new smaller one.

The cost of the above alterations will be £13¼ million at today's prices but as you can imagine this will rocket by the time the building is finished.

Kevin Fyfe and Paul McGeown

Fire Report from SMART *October 1981*

On Tuesday night, between half past nine and ten o'clock, the school was set on fire in the staff room. There is expected to be thousands of pounds worth of damage although the report cards were saved (no doubt a great relief to everyone!). There may be a connection with a similar incident at St. Winning's Primary School on Monday night. Various people have already "helped the police with their enquiries", but as yet, no details have been released of any conclusions they may have reached. Pupils are asked to give any information they may have about either incident to the local police, keep your ears peeled and your nose to the ground!!

Paul McMahan (not guilty) 403

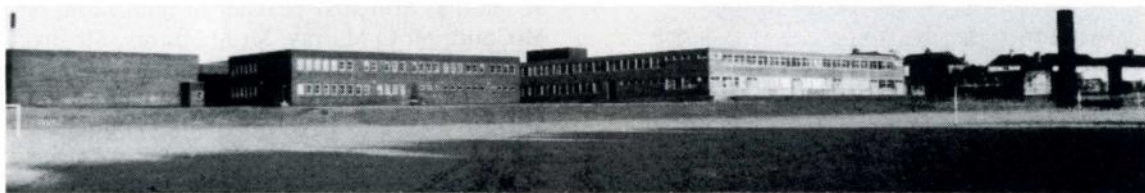
THE EXTENSION

At first it was a vague rumour, a distant cloud on the horizon, a promise of paradise unvisited. Then the reality arrived and it was not paradise. There was surely a logic somewhere, or a grand plan, but for those of us lesser mortals who must not ask the reason why the reality was that we lived on a building site with some rooms permanently out of commission at the same time as the windows in the old building were taken out and replaced. The images are many and varied. The staff room disappeared early due to the pyrotechnic ambitions of certain pupils, but it was going anyway. The staff, as a result, wandered around for a while like the Israelites in the desert waiting for the promised land, before settling in a small part of what was then the library and is now the main staff room.

Rumours and counter rumours circulated about who would have what classrooms. Claims and counter claims continued long after the builders moved out as the vision of paradise faded into the hard fact that somehow we still did not have quite enough accommodation. A new and uncharted territory sprang up where the PE department once had sole possession, to be explored with trepidation by those who had feared that they would become lost in its mazes. A new and wonderful dining hall appeared (Paradise attained) followed by an oratory, a computer room, a sixth year common room and other signs and wonders.

Gradually we settled in, our wonder grew less, familiarity bred content and those of us who lived through these days survived to answer the question "what did you do when the extension was going up?" We survived.

Mrs J. Lamb (who joined the Mathematics Department in August 1978)



Extension

Looking Back

Editorial *from 1965 magazine*

Today has just taken place the greatest event in the history of our School - St Michael's new college has been formally opened by Mr Bruce Millan M.P., joint Under-Secretary of State for Scotland. The occasion was impressive, with dedicatory prayer by His Lordship, Bishop of Galloway, an inspiring address by Mr Millan and the uplifting singing added by the choir - leaving us a memory to be treasured. For us, the present pupils, and for the generations of pupils who are yet to come, today's ceremony is a great milestone in our lives.

Previous to today's formal opening, we have been functioning since August and laying down tracks along which the School will run in other years. We, the pupils, are unanimous in our approval of our new College, its excellent facilities, spacious library, comfortable classrooms, well-equipped laboratories and practical rooms and extensive playing fields.

For today's function our Janitors, Mr Frew and Mr Fulton, with their staff of Cleaners have done a magnificent job and it has been a delight to display to our visitors the bright and shining premises. The Dining Hall Staff also deserve our warmest thanks for the most enjoyable afternoon tea to which full justice was done by the guests.

In our Magazine, you will see some views of various departments of our School - indeed, the inclusion of these pictures has forced us to reject many contributions from the pupils; but it is all for the same cause.

We extend our thanks to our advertisers for their financial support; though we have left Irvine we notice that our Irvine advertisers have been as generous as of old. We thank the Staff for their assistance in producing the Magazine; Mr Pentleton has been responsible for the photography, Mr Campbell for the illustrations and Mr Dawson with his pool of typists have prepared the copy for the printers.

We hope you will enjoy the Magazine and that for all of you, parents, former pupils and all our readers, this issue will be a souvenir of our new school and we are sure that you too rejoice in our happiness in possessing a School of which we can be justly proud.

School Jottings 1965-1966

About a week before the new session, the Staff gave up their holiday and began unpacking and storing books. Workmen laboured feverishly to have the school ready. It seemed impossible to believe that the school could function on the day fixed for the opening. But, somehow, the impossible was achieved, thanks being due, in great part, to the Herculean efforts of our janitors and cleaners. On 26th August, boys and girls - 780 of them - plus the Staff - new members and old - were welcomed by our School Convener, Farther Burke, who brought with him the good wishes of the Education Committee as well as those of his own parishioners in Kilwinning. Mr Leahy took up duty as Deputy Head.

For the first week, pupils were delighted to go home early each day as the Dining Hall was not quite ready for the 750 pupils who wanted to sample the menus. The Staff, alas, did not fare so well but spent the afternoons putting their departments in order. By 8th September, lessons were begun in earnest. To the Staff have come the following new members: Mr Scullion as Principal Teacher of Education, Mr McCourt, Mr O Murray, Mr M Murray, Mr Blair, Mr Pratchett, Mrs Hainey, Mrs Hunter, Miss Bingham, Sister Cecily. Our French and Spanish assistants have been Mlle. Fouques and Dr Manuel Souto. Since Easter, we have also added to our numbers Miss Duffy, Miss Cumming and Mr Smith.

After a month of settling in, on the feast of St Michael, the entire school attended St Winin's Church for Mass celebrated by Father Burke. Between October and Christmas several groups of adults paid evening visits to the school to see all that the College had to offer. On 23rd October, a Coffee Morning proved a wonderful success, with over 600 parents and friends.

Christmas parties in the spacious Assembly Hall were as gay as our parties usually are, but the more elegant background seemed to add a dignity to the occasions. The Band, organised by Mr. McFarlane, proved both popular and entertaining. The term ended with our now customary Carol Service held in St Winin's Church. The sermon, preached by Father Louis C.P., sent us home in a fitting mood for the great Christmas feast.

When we assembled after the Christmas holidays, we had the pleasant task of offering our good wishes to Father Walker, our former Convener, on the occasion of his Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee, in appreciation of his friendship while St Michael's was under his care in Irvine.

Very soon senior pupils were engrossed in S.C.E. Examinations. Fortunately, these were over before the "flu" epidemic descended upon us, causing many vacant desks in classrooms.

The death of Canon O'Connor, senior clerical representative on the Education Committee, brought sorrow to all his friends. His interest in St. Michael's was most sincere and we are glad that he lived to see the new school completed.

A welcome visitor in mid-March was His Lordship, Bishop McGee. We are looking forward to his offering Mass for us in our Hall in the near future.

At Ayrshire Music Festival, the Junior Girls' Choir won the "Doonside" Challenge Trophy for the third time in four years while the Senior Mixed Choir came second in their own group.

Just before Easter, we were invited to send two Netball Teams to the Margaret Clitheroe Grammar School in Bradford to take part in a Tournament for Passionist Schools. They

enjoyed the week-end immensely.

We are now back at school for the last term of the session and S.C.E. exams are in full swing. Between times the Senior Mixed Choir is preparing to visit West Berlin as guests of the Ranke Grammar School, for about ten days from 23rd June onwards. Forty other boys and girls are looking forward to the "Nevasa" Cruise to Mediterranean ports in early June.

On 3rd June, the School will be opened officially by Mr. Bruce Millan, Under Secretary for Scotland.



The Quadrangle within the main building



View of the Assembly Hall from the main car park



A view of the playground looking towards the gymnasium

A Handful of Clubs

Over the past twenty five years there have been many thriving organisations in St Michael's - Clubs, Societies and Guilds

At the instigation of IIA girls Sister Dominic Savio started the **St Maria Goretti Guild** in 1962. 1967 was a particularly lively year. Meetings were held each Thursday at one o'clock in Sister's room. As well as learning of the life and martyrdom of Maria Goretti, the members were able to enjoy debates on such topics as folk music in church services and teenagers' pocket money.

In 1965 the **Literary and Debating Society** was reintroduced with the help of Mr Mitchell and Mr Pratchett. The debating themes were many and varied and the society had many successes in competitions at a national level. Some talented speakers were Anthony Fraser, Mary Boyle, Brian Monaghan, Anne Donnelly and Francis Callaghan.

By 1973 the name had changed to the **Debating Club**, less grand than its previous name but talent abounded. In 1975 Anne Scullion and John Boothman reached the finals of the Scottish Daily Express Debate held in Glasgow University Union. They came second. Other talented speakers included James McCourt, Brian Kelly, Lesley Quinn, Mary Therese McCann, Annabelle Millar, Mairi Dalton, Shirley Wright and Eddie McCardle.

In 1979 under the guidance of Father Walsh there was a **Senior Discussion Club** - all male at first until they "consented to allow the females into this bulwark of masculine dominance".

The **School Camera Club** was founded in 1965 by Mr J Pentleton (better known as Sean, father of Clare, Mark and Derek, husband of Gloria). Soon all the members could print and develop their own spoils.

In 1977 Henry Dore (S4) wrote that the camera club had been very active for the four previous years and there was now a large waiting list. A competition for the best picture taken, developed and printed on some aspect of school life, was won by Eric Kerr with the picture 'Working Hard'.

In 1966 the two **Legions of Mary** praesidia in the school - Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady, Queen of Peace - amalgamated and became Our Lady of Sorrows. Patricia Anne Kelly of sixth year was president in 1966 and she paid tribute to Miss McGeough who 'has done so much to establish the Legion in the school'.

Mr Bob Smith who was an art teacher in the St

Michael's for eighteen years started an **Animation Club** in 1976. The members of the club learned how to make their own films lasting about 30 seconds.

Mr Smith also organised the **Chess Club**. There was a junior and a senior team and Mr Dickson drove them to their away matches in the school minibus. In SMART March 1978 it was reported that "against Largs Academy the juniors lost 5-1 with S O'Connell the solitary winner. The seniors won by 1 pt, R Cochrane, W Douglas and the inevitable T Barrett winning. Daddy Cool got a draw!!"

In the mid seventies there was a **Scoop Club** organised by Mrs Gardiner. It was a paperback club where the members could get paperbacks cheaper than in the shops.

In 1978 the number of people attending the **Science Club** meetings had plummeted and so also had "the general level of scientific knowledge on St Mike's". However shortly afterwards a "well attended meeting was given an illustrated talk by Doctor Best of the Clyde River Purification Board".

Also in 1978 there was a **Modelling Club** run by Mr Colgan at which you could "build almost anything from motorised models to sailing ships" so long as you brought your own model!

From 1973 to 1979 Mr Dickson's "**Smart**" newspaper team met weekly, preparing news for the regular issues - the 72 issues (at 1p, 2p or 3p) sold 250 - 350 copies each time, and led to three Smart Annuals (now collectors' items).

In the late seventies Miss Murphy and Miss Lennon ran a **Bridge Club** which met every Wednesday night after school and Friday lunchtimes. In March 1987 Miss Murphy represented Scotland in an international bridge tournament in Paris.

Added to all this there was a **Folk Club** in 1966 with lunchtime "hoot'n-annies" held once a month under Mr Pentleton's enthusiastic and capable management, a **Dance Club** in 1973 started by Mrs Devine and Miss Callaghan (now Mrs Brown), a **Cross Country and Jogging Club** run by Mr Vernon in 1980 and a **Maths Club** run by Mr Merrick in 1981.

Elsewhere in the magazine you can read about the thriving clubs and organisations which exist in today's St Michael's.

Our First Year 1990-91



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Skiing at Home and Abroad

Pertisau, Austria 1973 (8 days)

For most of us - 54 pupils, accompanied by Mr & Mrs P Connolly, Mr J Orr, Miss Murphy, Miss G Dillon, Mr Pentleton - this was the first experience of skiing abroad. My memory is of mixed weather and a resort which proved to be excellent for beginners and intermediate skiers. We made a day visit to Innsbruck for shopping and visited the famous Innsbruck ski-jump where the view from the top of the run looks straight down the hill into a huge cemetery - very comforting for those about to jump! A Tyrolean evening provided a good opportunity to take in some local culture.

Andalo, Italy 1980 (8 days)

A large party of pupils were led by Mr Cairney, Mrs Nolan, Fr P Walsh, Sr Bernadette, Mary McLaughlin, Agnes Lennon and Mr Pentleton. The most memorable images include the fantastic sun-lit slopes, the number of times a head count had to be taken to establish that all 72 were present and correct, and the famous Tuesday night when home-sickness spread like a virus and tears flowed very freely among the girls. An excellent day's shopping was enjoyed in nearby Bolzano and I have great memories of excellent coffee and pastries!

Tonale, Italy 1982 (8 days)

Mr and Mrs Cairney, Mr Merrick, Mr Pentleton, and 40 pupils enjoyed the best skiing I have experienced, mostly on the nearby glacier at up to 10,000 ft above sea level. On only two days of the holiday did the sun fail to shine. We enjoyed brilliant sunshine and high altitude skiing amid glorious mountain scenery, each day starting with a 15 minute journey by cable car to the mouth of the glacier, amid cries of "Bend zee knees, Allison!"

Thanks . . . to all staff colleagues and pupils for the many happy memories of these and our many Scottish ski outings between 1972 and 1982. During this period we introduced some 900 pupils to skiing and many have continued to develop their skills in this exciting sport. **Sean Pentleton.**

Ski Course to Morillon, France, 1989

Twenty pupils accompanied by Mr Jim Coxhead and Mrs J Boyd attended this course of six days of intensive ski instruction. The weather was good, with six days of sunshine and, after an icy start to the week, powder snow a metre deep on the last day. Most pupils had the opportunity to speak some French. The accommodation and food was first class. Evening entertainments included skiing by torchlight, bingo, discos and swimming, and the presentations of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Now practise your French . .

Le 16 janvier, 1989, vingt élèves avec M. J. Coxhead et Mme. J. Boyd sont partis en vacances à Morillon, une ville dans les Alpes françaises. Ils ont passé la semaine à faire du ski. Il y avait des élèves qui savaient déjà skier, mais il y avait des autres qui n'avaient guère vu un ski dans leur vie. Pendant les mois avant les vacances, M. Coxhead est allé à la piste artificielle de Newmilns afin d'apprendre aux élèves à skier, et tous les élèves lui sont reconnaissants.

Martin Donnelly, translated by Mark Pentleton for his own publication *La Revue*.



Skiing is fun when you know how!

It is not easy to ski, it takes some time and effort. You could start by going along to Mr Coxhead's brilliant ski lessons at the dry ski slope in Newmilns just like I did. You were learning a new sport as well as it being good fun, though it can be an expensive sport if you don't have your own equipment. You have so many laughs through the beginner's stage - falling over, crashing into the pine trees at the bottom of the hill or perhaps losing your grip going up the ski tows and falling backwards to where you started from. This is all great fun and much more.

You might want to go to Aviemore or Switzerland as there is much more to learn about skiing and then you could show off to your pals how good you are. Why not try one of these places mentioned? - you will be glad you did.

Jennifer King 205

"Every Student Will Pass"

RECTOR: "What are you doing in the school, boy?"

BOY: "I'm looking for the technical department, Sir."

RECTOR: "That's what I mean: what are you doing in the school?"

Traditionally, by design or afterthought, technical departments were more often than not found either in a hut somewhere in the school grounds or in an extension situated as far away as possible from the main entrance: it was dust, you see!

The old St Michael's Technical department in Irvine utilised an isolated building called a Horsa Hut. There was only one teacher and for Higher Technical (begun in 1963) all three subjects (technical drawing, woodwork and mechanics) had to be passed!

Our present Principal Teacher of Technical Mr McLean remembers the then principal Mr John Leishman predict "Every student will pass!"

Guess what happened?

Those good old days are gone now and so is the Horsa Hut. No more stalagmites rising to greet you first thing on a Monday morning. But Technical departments are still far from the maddening crowd and ours is no exception.

Perhaps by this time our readers are as riveted as an old iron bridge.

Woodwork and metalwork are replaced now by craft and design which gives pupils the freedom to express their ideas in creating a practical solution to a design problem.



The Technological Studies Standard Grade class

Technical drawing now includes such topics as graphical communication and computer aided drafting.

Room 15 (once a technical drawing room) is now firmly established as the Technology room.

All sorts of weird and wonderful experiences are embarked upon by first and second year pupils including energy, communication, electricity, structures, mechanisms, solar power, pneumatics, electronics, fibre optics, computer aided design and robotics. In short, **"TECHNOLOGY"**.

Maggie would be proud of us!

Technological Studies Standard Grade and Higher encompass all these disciplines and more in providing the vehicle for pupils to solve problems in a structured manner on realistic Industrial Technological Situations.

Yes, I think we have galloped a long way from the Horsa Hut!

Ski-ing with St Michael's

below left – Loch Morlich Youth Hostel 1985; below right – at Morillon 1989.



Where Romans Trod . . .

Since 1971, St Michaels have been to most of what remains of Roman Britain. Mr. Dickson's first Classics fieldwork was with 26 S4 pupils and Miss Kelly to Hadrian's Wall for two days in October 1973, and almost the same group went to Roman sites in Scotland the following April; each trip cost £4 for the two days, including coach, meals and bed !!!

Since then there have been five other S4 trips to Hadrian's Wall, three S2 one-day trips, and nine S2 four day trips combining the wall with either York or Chester. The three mini-buses have been to most of these places, too; almost 40% of the mileage on the first bus was for Classics. Also, there have been four summer tours of Roman Britain (a one week journey via Chester, Bath, Portsmouth, Fishbourne, London, Lincoln, etc). Roman Scotland has not been forgotten, as several trips to the Antonine Wall can show.

Add to this, the visits to the theatres in Irvine, Glasgow and Edinburgh for productions of classical drama, and the two coachloads of S1 pupils to the non-classical "Gold Of The Pharoahs" in 1988. The grand total comes to about 40 trips over 18 years, involving 970 pupil places and lots of different staff. Were you one of the 970?

Common factors throughout these trips are enjoyment and the educational experience, both academic and social, for the pupils, and the pleasure at accompanying them shown by the staff, for whom there is currently a waiting list stretching to 1993.

From a 1978 Bulletin:

"Whom the gods wish to destroy . . ." – one can but record the fact that Mr. B. Dorrian's timetabling board has fallen from the wall.

In Which Year!

1. did Mr. McCutcheon become Depute Head Teacher of St. Joseph's Academy?
2. did Sister Dominic Savio celebrate 25 years at St. Michael's?
3. did the staffroom burn down?
4. did SMART start?
5. did Sister Pauline retire?
6. did the first computer come into the school?
7. did the nuns move to the convent in Kilwinning?
8. did Craig McNicholl skate in the Olympic Games?
9. did Father Burke die?
10. did the name St. Michael's College change to St. Michael's Academy?

Answers on Page 49

Young Authors' Project

Every Wednesday lunch time the Young Authors' Project (YAP) meets. It is not like some things within the school that you are tied down and have to go every week. You just come when you are able and when it suits you.

When you go you are given the choice of writing poems to make a poem book, writing short stories to make a younger child's book or writing one big long story.

You can either take a packed lunch and spend your whole lunch time there, or you can get a card from Mrs McGuire to get into the dinner hall early and then come along.

YAP is organised and run by Mrs McGuire, Assistant Principal Teacher of English.

Geraldine Gallagher, S2

SPORTS FEATURE – 3



Gillian McMillan – Since leaving school in 1989 I am now qualified to teach tap, stage and disco dance. At the beginning of this year I started my own dance school with the help of the Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust and Enterprise Allowance Scheme. I have classes in Kilbirnie where I teach tap, stage and majorette and adult keep fit. In 1990 I won the British Isles Professional Championships a. Previously I won the West, North and South of Scotland Championships as well as winning the National Championships twice. I was also part of the Young Sensation Team who are British Isles, European and North European Champions.

Over the years I have taken part in a variety of things such as; being a munchkin in the Wizard of Oz, choreographing pantomimes, teaching cadets how to touch their toes and cheerleading Celtic Park



June 1970

St Michael's Academy junior netball team who won the Ayrshire schools' junior netball championship - from left seated, Margaret Carpenter, Elizabeth Duffy, Kathleen McQuade (captain) and Sally-Anne McIntee; back - Marie O'Sullivan, Kathleen Blaney, Isobel McDonald, Sheila Bradford (reserve) and Mrs K Bennie, physical education teacher.



Sports 1990 team
tactics from Mr. McNulty.

Senior Football 1965

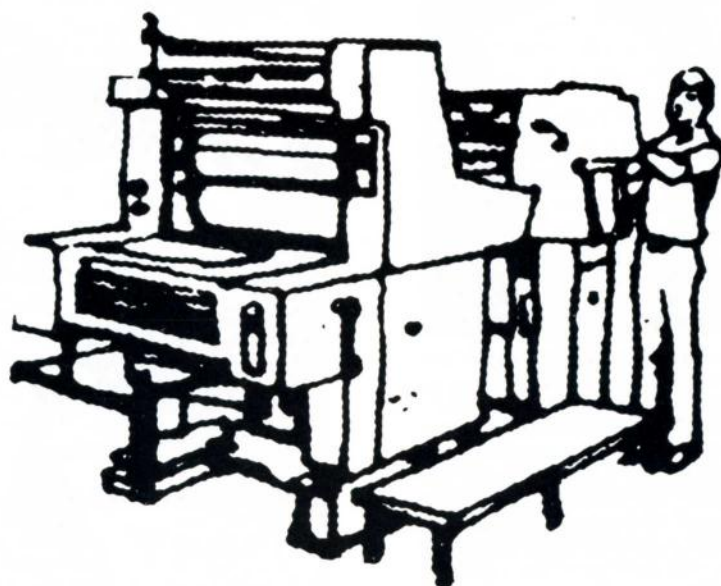
This was an outstanding season for the senior team. They scored 117 goals with only 7 against in all their games. Winners of the Ayrshire League and cup. Lost in the semi-final of the Scottish Cup. Top goal scorer - Lou Macari with 32 goals.

Jim Clarke and Lou Macari played for Scottish schools. Jim Clarke also played for the Scottish Youth Team. Hugh McKellar played for Scottish Boys' Club. John McIlhannon played for the Scottish Amateur Team.

Six of the boys were chosen to represent Ayrshire Schools against the rest of Scotland.



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Mr. T. Malkin – Photographer



Our hardworking typists: Left to right – Kathryn Shaw, Tracy Quigley, Julie McLaughlin and Angela Ure.

Hints for Foreign Trip Leaders

(Lessons learnt the hard way)

1. Preparations

- a) Vet the pupils. Take only those who are well behaved, highly motivated, eager to learn and have a healthy respect for teachers. Warning - you may have to compromise on some of these pupils.
- b) Vet the staff. Take only non-drinking, non-smoking, tolerant good humoured, child-loving teachers who can survive on a minimum of sleep. Warning - you will almost certainly have to compromise on all of these points.

2. List of Essential Items

- a) Medical Provisions: You should be able to get a bulk order discount with a chemist! You will need pills for sore throats, sore heads, diarrhoea and constipation, and bandages suitable for every part of the anatomy. Take Valium (for staff) and sleeping pills (for pupils).
- b) Sick Bags: For squeamish staff take opaque rather than transparent ones. Don't economise by nicking food bags from Tesco - they have wee holes (no explanation is being offered for this discovery!)
- c) Bin Bags: On a coach journey you will need one bag per 20 miles. Consider recouping some costs by recycling Coca Cola cans and buying shares in Cadbury's.
- d) Music Tapes: Pupils will bring plenty themselves, but if you're not a fan of Stone Roses or Inspiral Carpets, bring ear plugs. Don't count on them providing Perry Como or Sydney Devine. In fact, these can be useful as threats / sanctions.
- e) Videos: Ban everything with violence or pornography. When they've seen Mary Poppins twice, tell pupils that they should be asleep anyway.

3. Things to Check on Trip

- a) Check layout of hotel / hostel. Work on the assumption that if they can do it, they will do it! Children have an ingenious way of negotiating fire escapes, balconies and pipes. I have seen a double locked fire door dismantled with a nail file. Imagine the potential of a Swiss Army Knife.
- b) Check local customs / traditions. Find out, before the pupils, which local establishments are not too fussy about age restrictions on alcohol and tobacco. Some Dutch barmen would serve beer in a baby's bottle if requested! Check time of suitable services. A Long Easter Mass in German is not always inspiring. On Palm

Sunday in Holland, holly branches were distributed instead of palms. Imagine 45 teenagers armed with these as they stand, sit and kneel through a long service!

- c) Check pupils. Check breath, pockets and rooms at regular intervals. Make late night checks. Teenagers have an incredible need, between about midnight and 2 am, for the toilet, a drink of water, an aspirin and/or a biscuit, or there are sudden urges to brush teeth, wash hair or have showers. By a strange coincidence, the 'urges' seem to hit about 20 pupils at the same time! Make a special check before clearing customs. On one occasion we dumped 12 switch-blade knives in the North Sea. Better to fall foul of environmentalists than Customs Officials (or parents?).

4. Don't Worry About

- a) Quality of rooms and beds for staff. They won't be used much anyway.
- b) Children's nutritional needs. They survive very well on a diet of Coke, crisps and chocolate.
- c) Finding your way back. There will be a trail of cameras, sunglasses, gloves, bags and jackets marking the route you've been. Even teachers can be careless! One put her bag on the window ledge of the revolving restaurant at the top of Schillton Mountain, so half an hour later it was 180° and 50 yards away!

Seriously, there have been many wonderful foreign trips from St Michael's in the last 25 years, from the Berlin trips of '67, to the Swiss trip last year. There is a History trip to the Battlefields this year, and a fourth Geography trip to Switzerland next year.

These provide unforgettable experiences for pupils and staff. There are obvious educational advantages, but just as important are the social aspects of sharing and developing relationships and experiencing new situations and cultures.

Staff always find foreign trips enjoyable, if exhausting. Pupils have given a few anxious moments but very many fond and amusing memories.

Mrs H Convery

History Field Trips

Field work has figured prominently in the History courses of the last 25 years. Generations of pupils have travelled with us to many sites to explore our Scottish heritage. Our study of Medieval life has taken us from Kilwinning Abbey and Dean Castle to St. Columba's Isle of Iona and to the scene of Scotland's triumph at Stirling and Bannockburn. We have investigated Mary, Queen of Scots at Linlithgow and Holyrood, and have followed the Jacobite trail from Killiecrankie and Glencoe to Glenfinnan and the site of Bonnie Prince Charlie's defeat at Culloden Moor.

A favourite with pupils was our annual tour of Burns' Country and Culzean. We have also travelled to foreign fields, through Germany to Berlin, where we visited the now historic Berlin Wall, and this year we set off for Belgium and France to explore the Battlefields of World War 1. From Arran in the rain to Mull in a heatwave each excursion was memorable and enjoyed by all.

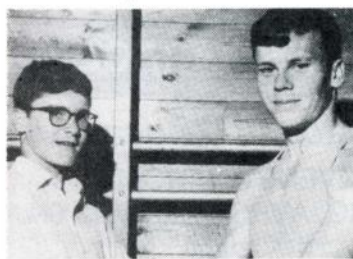
Swiss Trip 1990



Mr. D. McIlroy, Mrs. A. Brown, Mr. D. Cush, Mr. A. Mousley and Mrs. H. Convery



Champion Brothers 1971/72



Joseph and Tom Timmons, senior and junior sports champions in 1969.

The Senior Boys' trophy was donated by Mr. James Timmons and was dominated by the Timmons boys. Joe Timmons won the trophy from 1969-71 and Thomas Timmons in 1972. Joe ran for Ayrshire in the sprint events and went into represent his country in the 100 metres. He played football for the school and his greatest claim to fame was coming on as a substitute in the U-18 Ayrshire Cup Final to score a hat trick against Greenwood Academy in 1971. The team won 5-2 after extra time.

He played football for Dalry Thistle before retiring prematurely because of a knee injury. His interest in football made him become a referee. Joe refereed the Scottish Junior Cup Final in 1977 between Kilbirnie and Kirkintilloch at Hampden Park. The match was televised live and in the Kilbirnie pool were other F.P.'s Ian Baillie and Davie McIlroy. Kilbirnie went on to win the Scottish Cup.

Joe later became Grade 1 referee in Scotland and was a regular whistler in the premier League. His job in the bank took him South to Newcastle, where he soon worked up to a Grade 1 referee in England.

Joe is the only Grade 1 referee in English and Scottish first class football. He is now back working in Scotland's banking capital and is still refereeing. Joe is married to Patricia Walker who was sports champion from 1969-72, they have three children.



Back row: Valerio, Pentleton, Timmons, Morris, Lennon, Scullion. Front row: Dorrian, Moultrie, McGonigle, McIlroy, McLaughlin and McVeigh.

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BIOLOGY EXCURSIONS

Biology pupils have been increasingly involved in marine and terrestrial field work over the years. S3 and S4 classes have undertaken fieldwork partially in the school area, but more excitingly on visits to different areas around the coast. In the 70's staff and S4 took part in excursion to Troon sandy beach and Portencross rocky shore, but more recently the department has engaged the expert support of the Ranger service at Culzean Country Park in June each year. Here, pupils learn to carry out practical techniques such as sampling and measuring some abiotic factors, as well seeing living things in their natural environment. Pupils then complete worksheets relating to the flora and fauna of the area, and write a report on the day's events, showing relevant charts and diagrams.

Nearby Eglinton Park also provides scope and facilities for shorter sessions. Some Standard grade Science class have successfully studied part of the ENVIRONMENT topic here.

In the 70's and 80's S3 and S4 pupils visited Glaisnock Field Centre at weekends, while a week long visit to Garth Field Centre in Perth proved educational to one S4 group.

In the Higher Biology course, Evolution and Animal behaviour have been studied at Glasgow Zoo, while Kelvingrove Art Gallery has been the venue for lectures and animated discussion on *The Origin of Species*.

In 1983 and 1984 18 senior pupils accompanied by staff travelled south to London to visit the *Natural History Museum* at Kensington to enjoy *hands on* experience of the then innovative *Human Body* exhibition, as well as studying *Man's place in Evolution*. These excursions proved most popular since they also involved staying at a London hotel and attending a West End musical, not to mention the *Flying Visit* by some pupils and staff to Harrod's.

First year pupils are not to be outdone and as recently as last year all of S1 visited Kelvingrove Natural History Museum to participate in a structured lesson entitled *The Vertebrates*.

The Biology staff enjoy such educational outings (sometimes) since they develop more than just scientific or biological knowledge, but engage pupils in learning experiences outwith the school environment and help pupils and staff to build a healthy working relationship with each other.

From our Bulletins

1977:

Ayr instructs kitchen to serve soup twice a week. School Trips on 22nd June: S1 - Girvan - sur - Mer; S2 - Butlin's; S3 - Millport . Congratulations to the Sacred Heart Fathers on their Centenary.

(August 1977) Welcome to new members of staff: Ricardo Lucchesi, James Fitzpatrick, Eric Cairney, Alan Ritchie, Dorothy Graham. Congratulations to Peter Connolly on his move to Ayr Academy. Jim Vernon will succeed him. Ms M Collum has resigned and is moving to Norway. Hunter Dewar has paid his November visit to the staffroom

R.I.P. Pupils Jackie Carroll and Joseph McCallum.

1978:

Congratulations to Stephen McKinley on graduating as a Dentist. Lourdes Trip July 17-24th , Sister Dominic Savio, Mr. Walsh and Miss Timmons. Clare Devine and Blane Savage have been accepted for the Glasgow School of Art. Miss Whiston retires.

(August 1978) Welcome to new members of staff: Mrs. Fitzpatrick (English); Mrs. Lamb (Maths.), Mr. Blair (Tech.), Mr. Johnston (Art); Mrs. Dorrian (P.E.); Mrs. McCallum (Mod. Studies); Mrs. MacPhail (H.E.), Miss McLaughlin (English). The new General Technician is Mr. Lynn. The record featuring the Greenock Silver Band and the School Choir is now available, price £3.66, from Mr Keenan; a track was played on the Charlie Chester Show last Sunday. Gerry Kavanagh resigns. Congratulations to Brian McNulty.

1980:

Mrs McGuinness has lost her gown. Mr. Mellan retires. Apologies - Mr. Smith's new baby was 10lbs 9ozs and not 10lbs 6 ozs as announced yesterday. It seems he had removed his donkey jacket and work boots before being weighed. Irish Catechist magazine arrived addressed to the Rev. J. McCutcheon.

The technical department are no longer prepared to repair shoes.

April 1981 Mr Merrick gives a class in Rubik cube solving. Linda Goodfellow and Bernadette Todman selected for the papal choir at Bellahouston and Murrayfield, Songs of Praise and an album.

1982 :

January - Fuel shortage - School closed - prelims at Kilwinning Academy, Blacklands, St Winin's Church hall, Biology Huts. Mr. Pentleton appointed Computer Development Officer

1983:

All pixies to report to room 10 at 11.00 am (A. Callaghan) / Villagers bring packed lunch.

Work Experience: more exciting than school

Stephen Gill S4

When I was asked what work experience I would like to go on I was apprehensive, so I said I would think about it.

The next day I had made up my mind, I knew I had no chance of spending a week with the Navy but I could get something that had a little of what I would eventually like to do in it.



If I managed to get accepted then I would go for an Artificer Apprenticeship which is engineering, so I put that down. A few weeks later Mr Jenkins asked me if I would like to go to Simpson and Turner Ltd for one week - they are trained engineers.

I got permission from my parents and teachers who had no objection so long as I kept up with my homework; I was on my way.

On the Monday I got up around 6.30 am which was an experience in itself. I was told to wear specific clothing: a pair of shoes (no trainers), overalls and jeans.

I went in the front door through the office; there was no-one in so I went straight through and met Joe; he was the floor supervisor or "Thee Boss". He taught me a lot in one week about safety, measuring instruments and a lot of jokes. I started a job for Black and Decker making shafts for their trimmers.

Lunch time was from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm. I played football with some of the other workers who told me that they had two teams who could get pretty rough some lunchtimes. During the week I learned a lot; Dave even showed me how to dodge work but Joe found me in the computer room.

The last day was the best. I knew they would do something because they warned me from day one, Fairy Liquid bottles were hidden all round the factory filled with water; everyone had one except me so from 8.30 am I got soaked every hour on the hour by everyone. Around 12.00 pm the real Boss - well, his son - wanted to see me in his office. We chatted about the past week and about what I wanted to do when I left school. When I went back

into the main part of the factory everyone grabbed me, put me in a toilet block and threw buckets of cold water over the door; then the horn went, and I went home, but I really wanted to stay. It was great!

One Training Week at Fergushill ATC

Sharon Thompson & James Byrne

Fergushill Adult Training Centre in Fergushill Road, Kilwinning is where we did our work experience for one week. We were shown all aspects of working and all around the centre.

Atmosphere Friendly

The first day was spent being shown around and introduced to the students age 16 to 65. It was a different place. We'd never seen such a place, apart from the building green, there was an atmosphere of love and friendship. By the second and third day we'd got to know everyone but there were just a few whose names you'd always forget. We took them into Irvine and around the shops.

We'd never had so much fun shopping. Different people, enjoying different activities like swimming or horse-riding. After a long day at the centre they would all go home on the buses and come back the next day.

Can't Understand

It was our second last day and we knew we'd miss it. We went out to get food and drink for the Christmas dinner, which everyone enjoyed.

Then it was Friday, and our last day was upon us. We didn't want to leave; we'd had such a great time. We still can't understand why these people, who are perfectly normal apart from a slight handicap, can't be accepted in our society. They are the most loving and caring people you can get.

We'd love to go back, in fact we've been back for visits and are intending to go again. We're thinking about following a career in this, but we'll see!

PAST PUPIL NEWS

IAN (JOHN) KIRKLAND (1980-85), graduated this year from Glasgow University with a BSc Geography with Honours (upper second). Instead of doing a sixth year at school, Ian gained an H.N.C. in Accounting at Glasgow College. He is now studying for an MSc degree in Rural and Regional Resource Planning.

ELLEN QUIRK (COUGHLAN): "I began St Michael's College, Irvine in August 1964. My most vivid memory of that time was that the last few weeks before the end of the summer term we did very little work as all the books etc had to be packed in readiness for the school's move to Kilwinning. What a difference - a new modern school with new modern toilets - inside! Everything looked great. We were all told to move around the school in a clockwise direction - to avoid chaos but I doubt if this was always achieved. For the first time there was choice in the dinner hall - not the usual take it or leave it. We had two new gym halls, new sports pitches and - yes - showers! What bliss! Although I will always have fond memories of my old school the new school was a welcome relief."

KAREN DOCHERTY (Head Girl 1983-84) graduated from Napier College in July 1988 with a BA degree in Commerce, then qualified as a teacher of Business Studies and Economics (and, of course, RE) at Jordanhill College in June 1989.

"I was then offered a permanent teaching contract at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock, which I gratefully accepted. At the moment I teach OIS, Accounting, Economics, Word Processing and various TVEI courses and am glad to say I thoroughly enjoy my work. Perhaps I ended up teaching because I enjoyed my 6 years at St Michael's so much!"

MARYSIA KOLODZIEJ (now Davis): First head girl of St Michael's in Kilwinning - lots of adventures, including a year in France, a year in Australia, 2 months in Colombia and many shorter visits to various parts of Europe. More important, a host of wonderful people providing support and sympathy, interest and fun, making this a fascinating and joyful life. After dabbling in a few other jobs, back teaching French and Spanish, and really enjoying it (at last!). And then, in search of more adventure, and convinced of the truth of the adage 'life begins at 40', Marysia took the plunge and married, true to her exotic taste, a Glaswegian, and is happier than she ever thought possible.

MARYS KOLODZIEJ (Dux in 1979) is doing research for the British Heart Foundation, formerly for the British Diabetic Association, and in association with Dr Victor Zammiet of the Hannah

Institute, has published several papers in this field.

PAUL EDWARD McGEOWN: Graduated from Glasgow University with 1st class honours degree in Comparative Law (LL.13.), and won a Snell Exhibition Scholarship (for Glasgow students going to Balliol College, Oxford). He is currently finalising D.Phil. in Comparative Law at Balliol College Oxford; also sitting final examinations in July this year for LL.B. in English Law.

Paul has worked on a number of legal text books and will take up his appointment this year with Slaughter & May, one of the biggest firms of Lawyers in Great Britain, with offices in a number of European cities. Paul was married in 1988 to Isabelle Bonnard, whom he met while at Oxford; Isabelle is a Doctor of Law and a graduate of the Sorbonne, Paris.

STEPHEN MOTRONI: "I left St Michael's in 1974 with the intention of studying medicine and went to do "A" levels at Langside College in Glasgow. During the year 74-75, however, I decided my future did not lie with science but with religion. I entered the Sacred Heart Fathers Novitiate in England in September '75 and stayed in England studying till 1983, taking a BA degree in Theology at the University of Durham. After my ordination in June '83 I was sent to Dublin to a city centre parish for a year. In 1984 I transformed into work - a Retreat Centre in Cheshire. During this time I took a course in spirituality with the Jesuits in North Wales. In 1989 I went to Rome to do some further studies and to teach English in the International College of the Sacred Heart Fathers. I returned in September 1990 and am now responsible for vocation, animation and administration of St Bede's House in Gateshead."

ROBERT O'DONOGHUE graduated BSc with First Class Honours in Electronics and Microcomputer Systems from Dundee University, went to United Biscuits, and is now tackling a second degree. First Class Honours were won also by **PAULINE LUNDIE**, who graduated BSc in Environmental Health at Strathclyde University, and by **JOHN McMILLAN**, who achieved the double MA honours in Hispanic Studies and English at Glasgow University. **NOEL TOMNAY** graduated B Eng Honours in Civil Engineering from Glasgow, and joined BP in London. **MARY CULLINANE** achieved MA Honours in French and Spanish at Strathclyde, and **PAULINE McDONAGH** MA Hons in Spanish and French at Glasgow. **MAUREEN DOCHERTY** graduated with Honours from Napier College and is now studying for a PhD, and **GERALD BOYLE** gained his BD in Dentistry at Glasgow.

THE STAFF



1965 STAFF

Back Row: P. McCourt, D. Dawson, J. Leishman, H. Medine, M. Murray, T. Henderson, J. Blair, F. Cassellis, O. Murray, C. Scullion, J. McKinley, J. Mitchell, O. Maguire. *Middle Row:* J. Pentleton, H. McFarlane, Miss T. Medine, Sister Brian, Mrs. Duffin, Miss M. Wade, Miss D. Higgins, Mrs. Ennis, Mrs. Cassellis, Sister Cecily, Miss B. Bingham, Miss D. Cumming, Miss M. Whiston, E. Mellan, M. Pratchett. *Front Row:* V. Campbell, Mrs. Hainey, Sister Marie Celeste, J. McCutcheon, Miss G. McGeough, Sister Eugenius, Miss C. Brosnan, J. Hughes, Sister Pauline (*Principal*), P. J. Leahy (*Depute Principal*), Mrs. McGuinness, L. Walsh, Sister Dominic Savio, Miss C. Duffy, Mrs. Hunter, Mlle N. Fouques, P. McManus. *Not in Photograph:* Mrs. Barkey, Mrs. Smith, E. Cairney.



1990 STAFF

Back Row: R. Barr, M. Doherty, S. Findlay, I. Dickson, T. Nellany, B. Walsh, J. Jenkins, Fr. D. Hutchinson, J. Coxhead, D. Cush, J. Kirkham, J. McLean, T. Thompson, P. McCafferty, H. Johnston. *3rd Row:* A. MacMahon, R. A. Mitchell, E. McKie, J. Yuill, S. Stirling, K. Butcher, G. MacFarlane, M. Merrick, A. Brown, R. Brown, S. Karling, F. Murphy, M. McCourt, T. Murphy, J. McLaughlin. *2nd Row:* H. Dewar, A. Murray, A. O'Neill (obscured), A. Adamson, A. McNicol, P. Young, J. McClung, D. Penno, M. Mitchell, J. Hemming, J. Lamb, Sister Bernadette, C. McGuire, K. Gallacher, A. Lennon, P. Dorrian, J. Vernon, T. Malkin, D. McIlroy. *Front Row:* M. T. Hughes, A. Lunardi, J. Buchert, S. Allison, J. Lynn, H. Convery, J. Aitken, J. Mitchell, J. McCutcheon, P. Maxwell, A. Mousley, K. McClure, S. Deeming, J. Walsh, W. Dorrian, E. Divers, J. McCutcheon, M. Quinn. *Not in Photograph:* A. Walsh, B. McNulty, A. Ritchie, C. Cassidy, J. Boyd, P. Carmichael, M. Tomlinson, E. Dewar, J. Middleton, A. Herbert, I. Betteley.

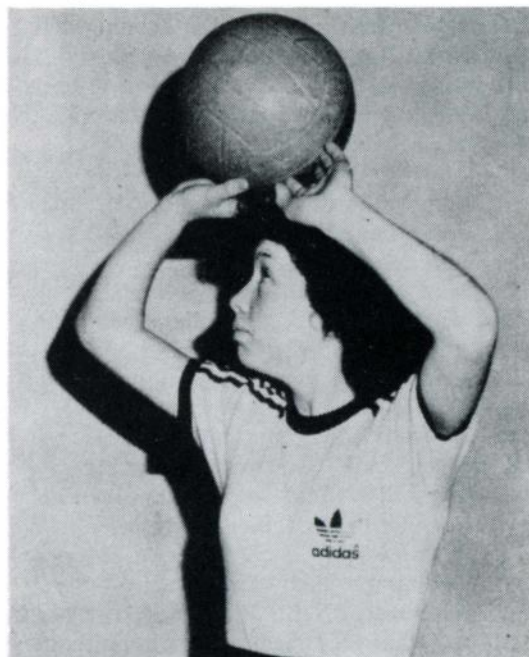
SPORTS FEATURE – 4

(Taken from 1977 Magazine)



Archery - 1976-77

Graeme Burnett is the holder of 18 medals for archery. He is the Scottish U-18 champion, West Of Scotland U-18 champion, winner of the National Junior League and Master Bowman. Quite a record as Graeme only joined his local club - "Irvine Toxophilites" two years previously.



Netball

Bernadette Morgan has represented Ayrshire, West of Scotland and Scotland at netball as well as representing her school at hockey and volleyball.



Judo

Mary Harrison is a three-times winner of the Scottish Ladies title at under 40 kilos. She is also a member of the Scottish Ladies Judo Squad. She has collected over 30 awards since starting the sport 3 years ago.

Helenor Ford, like Mary, is a member of Irvine Judo club. She has won a Scottish Bronze medal and a West of Scotland Bronze at under 40 kilos. This year she reached her Green Belt standard at only 13.



Badminton

Gary Donnachie has represented Ayrshire at under 18 level. He, with his partner John Dawson, are the winners of the Scottish YMCA Championships. Gary is a member of the Glengarnock YMCA.

SILVER JUBILEE AT ST. MICHAEL'S

It was standing room only in the St Michael's Academy Assembly Hall on the evening of Wednesday 7th November. More than 400 staff and pupils, past and present, parents, friends and benefactors came together to celebrate the 25 years of the school's existence in Kilwinning.

Among those present were Sister Pauline, C.P., former headmistress of the school, and Miss Catherine Brosnan, former Principal Teacher of Art, the oldest surviving past pupil of the original St Michael's College which first opened its doors on 7th November 1921.

Councillors, local and regional, were in attendance as were Church of Scotland ministers from Kilwinning. Mr William Ballantyne, Head Teacher of Kilwinning Academy, joined the celebration, along with Mr d'Arcy, Education Officer.

Mr John Mitchell was Master of Ceremonies for the evening, which began with a fanfare from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, as Bishop Maurice Taylor and ten priests, among them three former pupils, Father Byrne, Father Murphy and Father Mann, entered the hall to concelebrate Mass. After a brief welcome from Mr James McCutcheon, Head Teacher, the liturgy commenced. This was a moving and uplifting community experience for all present. The music, provided by Mrs Adamson, staff, and pupils, was of the highest standard. The readings were done by Mrs Merrick and Paul Canning, Captain, the Bidding Prayers by Mr Farrell and Mrs McGowan, members of the School Board, and the homily was delivered by Father Hutchison, School Chaplain.

At the end of Mass, Bishop Taylor reminded the assembled crowd that as Christians they were part of the world and that they must bear witness to their beliefs in their daily lives. He referred to the truth of St. Michael's motto, "Aeterna non Caduca" - "things eternal do not perish".

The liturgy over, Mr McCutcheon presented the Dux Medal to Thomas Greenan.

All present then made their way to the Dining Hall where Mr McCutcheon and Sister Pauline cut the jubilee cake and where baskets of flowers were presented by Bernadette McFadden (Captain), Christine Russell (Vice - Captain), and Lorna Dowell (prefect) to Sister Pauline, Miss Brosnan and Mrs Joan McCutcheon. To round off this part of the

proceedings, Mr Peter Maxwell gave the vote of thanks.

The informal part of the evening then commenced with a delicious buffet provided by Mrs Hemming and the members of the Catering Committee. After this people were free to look at the photographic display devised by Mrs Merrick and her team. This stretched from before 1965 to 1990. Or they could visit the Computer Room, where Mr John Walsh showed old school movies to the accompaniment of music from the 1971 production of "The Gondoliers".

The evening was a highlight in the annals of St Michael's Academy, and will inspire those who now embark on the next twenty-five year journey.



Girls' Captain Bernadette McFadden presents a basket of flowers to Sister Pauline



Thomas Greenan receives the 1990 Dux Medal from Mr. McCutcheon



Bishop Maurice Taylor signing the visitors' book, flanked by Mr. J. McCutcheon, Sister Pauline, Cllr. A. Lambie, Mrs. J. McCutcheon, and Cllr. E. Gray



Dining-hall staff and senior pupils who assisted with the buffet.

JOHN FORAN B.D.S.

Dental Surgeon

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from a former pupil!*

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Saturday – 9.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

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Burns Verse Competition

It is part of the philosophy of the English Department in St Michael's Academy to foster an interest in, and a love of, Scottish Literature. One of the First Year Units is, in fact, on this theme, and, at the senior level, in conjunction with S.E.B. policy, Scottish novels and poems form part of the curriculum.

Over the past four years, as an extension to this policy, a Burns Verse Speaking Competition has been held in the school each January. This is open to all pupils, but, as a rule, the most enthusiastic entrants come from First and Second Years.

Prizewinners are presented with Burns Federation Certificates at their Year Group Assembly and in June top entrants receive prizes from the Irvine Burns Club. There is a growing interest in the Competition which began in a fairly modest way. This interest, it is hoped, will be further fostered so that our pupils can become more aware of their Scottish literary heritage.

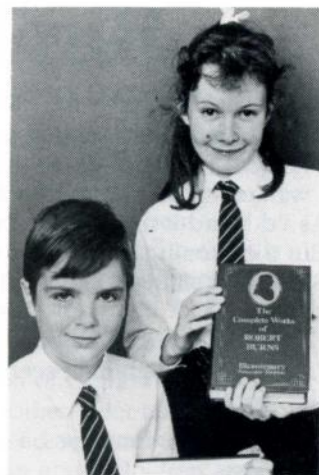
1990 Burns winners

Stuart McMillan
Geraldine Gallacher

1991 Burns winners

(left to right)

Lisa Bridgewater
Charlene Westcott
Jane Harrison
Stephen Russell



Enjoying "work"

My work experience was at Loganair for one week; my friend Mick Taggart also went with me. We both enjoyed our work experience.

The first day we went to Trident House, Loganair's main offices. We went to the Reservations department and spent the day listening on the phones. Some people were very abusive; this added to our enjoyment.

The second day had us on a Shorts 320 to Belfast the flight was very enjoyable, when we landed in Belfast our flight home was ready to leave, actually the only bad thing about it was that we flew over Ibrox.

On Wednesday we went to the airport and went to the check-in where passengers pick up their tickets; when we were there a bomb threat came through and the planes had to be searched, but it was a false alarm.

The Thursday was boring compared to the rest of the days, we went to Engineering, it was too complicated for me. We checked the wheels for cracks, checked an engine and took apart a brake system.

And finally on Friday we were allowed to just wander around the airport. Most of the days except Thursday were great and both me and Mick think that it was the best work experience ever, or in Mick's words "IT WAS FUNKY". **Mark Foley S4**

Below: Claire Collins and Kevin O'Donnell learning about design and layout on the latest technology at local printer John Geddes, working on pages of this magazine. (Photo courtesy of the "Ayrshire Leader")



Hiroshima – August 1945

DESTROYING A LIFE

As I walked to school that summer morning,
I heard a faint droning in the air,
I walked on and thought nothing of it,
As I'd heard it many times before.
But the droning turned to a whistling,
Sharp and strange, like a cut through the
silence.

I looked towards the noise, and a flash,
Like a bolt of lightning seemed to take over
the world.

When I opened my eyes, I could see only
darkness.

I heard screaming and wailing as I tried to
stand.

The darkness cleared, but I wished it hadn't,
As the sight I beheld then was one of horror
and suffering.

I remember vividly the images of the people
Bleeding and Dying, Burnt and Crying.

As I look back on that day long ago,

I am angry but also ashamed.

To think that some of our human race

Would take upon themselves the right

To destroy a race of people;

And I hope that man has learned something
from the experience,

So that I would know that it wasn't all in vain.

Marieanne McGrattan, 405

A MOTHERS LOVE

Early morning, people busying about,
Children laughing and crying, hear their
mother's shout,

"Get down, get down," she cries,

She puts her arms round her children and
covers their eyes.

The day has come that they all did dread,
One by one they fell; all were dead.

High up in the sky, the bomb did drop

And there, beyond on the mountain top

The piercing cries of the mother and her child,

One last time, they looked and smiled,

Goodbye my home, my family and life,

I leave behind this horrific strife.

I hope, one day, you find the compassion to
forgive,

The people who denied me the right to live.

Louise Donnelly, 404

BOMB OF BLOOD

The bomb pierced the earth
Like a needle in a balloon.

Then came a blinding light,
A scream, a yell.

People in the streets fell,

And all around,

As far as the eye could see

The dead lay in their misery.

They screamed, "God help us

If you can!"

Stop those fierce

Inhuman hands

Which dropped the bomb

On us down here,

And turned the river red

Clare Stewart, 404

THE NEW TOY

The American bomber carrying the
government's new toy
Which it thought so much of,
Flew over its defenceless prey, proud of
America's invention.
The world was soon to think differently.

Out of the sky came death itself,
At first nothing more than a whistling of the
bomb
rushing through the air,
The townsfolk looked up
And were blinded by the light.

Seconds passed by,
Then the brilliant light faded,
And a new ominous formation appeared –
A huge mushroom cloud rising above the
barren land.

The dead and dying lay on the ground side by
side;

Those who could see looked up,

The American plane that had unleashed hell
on them

Was flying away,

Flying back to its base,

Proud of its new toy!

Chris Laurins, 406

IN THE MORNING

In the morning,
When the children were playing,
There came a blinding flash
Followed by raging infernos
Burning the life from man itself.

The came the howling winds
Toppling buildings, blowing over trees
And houses like leaves in the breeze.

Everyone who survived
Had the memory of the cloud,
Like a mushroom in the sky,
Scarred in their memories for all eternity.

The terror of the blast
Was matched only by the sight of the
Burning souls leaving their charred bodies
To seek peace in the kingdom above.

All this from a single atom -
Wrapped up in a metal casing.

Alan McGlinchey, 405

THE BOMB

A breathless heat one hazy day.
A plane overhead,
But not unusual.
No-one wondered,
No-one cared,
Until it was too late to be spared.

In the plane one man sat,
Finger poised and proud of that.
The mission was to destroy,
To uproot, to wipe-out.
He pressed the button
And flew away.
He would live another day.

Down below minutes later
A flash, then what,
A mushroom cloud.
Thousands dead, burnt, peeling.
Those who lived painfully screaming,
Weeks later sickness spreading.
Hiroshima helpless.

Too much power
For mankind.
Where will it end?
Or will we always be blind?

Tracy Foster, 405

The Decision

Granny lives with us now. She was unable to care for herself after being discharged from hospital. She is looking her eighty-five years now. Snow white hair, skin fine and wrinkled with veins visible beneath, very thin, her body bent into a permanent stoop. Her eyes that used to sparkle so bright and alert have a vacant and pained look now, with the drugs she is prescribed for the cancer that is wasting her away.

Mum is a younger version of Gran. Happy in her role of housewife and mother. Her task is easier now as my three sisters and two brothers are married. She has fourteen grand-children and we enjoy their visits. Dad is a large man, over eighteen stone, retired now from his own haulage company. He spends most of his time gardening and reading. I am the baby of the family, a girl in my fourth year at secondary school studying languages.

Gran's health has deteriorated very fast over the past few weeks. She is unable to get out of bed now, too weak to sit up in a chair. When she screams with pain she needs morphine injections now. It is heartbreaking to watch her suffering.

Today Gran asked me for a large overdose of pills to put her out of her suffering. She said it would be kind if she did this, as no-one would ever watch an animal suffer to this extent without putting it out of its misery. I wonder what I should do? It would be cruel to be kind. She is so languid now in her spirit, but that is not surprising as the morphine doesn't seem to be giving her much relief from pain. I have heard of euthanasia. I know it is against God's law. I wonder if it is against the law of the land? It is certainly against my conscience. I wonder if she has asked Mum or Dad too, or just me? Maybe they have refused and she sees me as the only salvation to the end of her terrible suffering. I have been praying! What can I do? Should I carry out her request?

Poor Gran died during the night, a sudden end to her suffering. She will be at peace now with God. My prayers have been answered. The doctor is going to carry out a post-mortem!

The result of the post-mortem showed that Gran died of a massive heart attack. I wasn't worried about the findings. I have a conscience you see, I couldn't carry out Gran's last request!

Helen Gillespie, 405

Ayr Music Festival



1966 – The Junior Girls' Choir win the Doonside Trophy.

1968 – The Senior Boys' Choir received the highest marks of any choir at the whole Festival. The Senior Mixed Choir also took first place in their class. Denise Scott and Elma Garland won the junior duets class.

1971 – The First Year Girls Choir were second out of sixteen.

1974 – The Senior Choir won the Ayrshire Co-op Society Trophy. Peter Magee (IV) was awarded the Annie P Barclay Memorial and the Agnes Miller Prize for the top pianist of the whole festival. Mark McLaughlan (1K) was 1st in the Junior Woodwind

Solo Class. Gerard Quinn (2K) was 4th in his Flute Solo. Bernadette McLaughlin was 1st in the Under-18 Vocal Solos. In the final concert St Michael's was represented by Peter Magee, Anthony Quinn and the Senior Choir.

1975 – Peter Magee was 1st in Senior Piano. Alicia Laughland was 1st in Burns Vocal and 1st in Senior Duet with Christine Wilson of Ardrossan Academy. Bernadette McLaughlin was 2nd in Senior Soprano and Marie Therese McCann was 2nd equal in Mezzo Soprano. The Senior Girls Choir won the Templeton Challenge Trophy and the Choir Trophy for the best choir in the Festival.



1975 Senior Girls' Choir.
Ayrshire Music Festival – Winners of Templeburn Challenge Trophy & Choir Trophy for best choir in the Festival.

1986 – Mark Pentleton gained Third Place in the Piano Competition (Division B).

1989 – Mark Pentleton, S5, was runner-up to the winner of the principal Piano Competition, being beaten by only one point. The Junior Brass Group also performed well.

1990 – Maureen Devlin and Kenneth Scott gained first and second place in the tenor horn solo class at the Ayrshire Music Festival.

MORE MUSICAL EVENTS

1965 – A highlight at the official opening ceremony was the singing of the school choir and the playing of the orchestra.

1966 – The Senior Mixed Choir were invited to Berlin under the leadership of Mr McFarlane.

1978 – After a very successful Christmas carol concert under the expert guidance of Mrs McDonald and Mr Keenan the senior choir were asked by EMI record company to sing two songs on a new record called "Sailing". The choir sang the title track and 'Scots Wha Hae'.

1978 – Claire Devine was awarded a special certificate by the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music in London for having passed grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 in pianoforte playing within 5 years.

1979 – A school band started with Mr Keenan as the conductor. There were about 13 in the band. The band played at the concert and at various

primary schools.

1986 – Natasha Cairns, Theresa Braniff, Claire McGowan, Margaret Lundie and Samantha McCulloch appeared on STV. They were singing for a charity called "Save the children of Sudan" - the music was composed by Mr. F. Cairns, uncle of Natasha and the words were written by Natasha's cousin, Cameron Orr.

1987 – Thirty-six Junior Musicians entertained Senior Citizen patients in Ayrshire Central Hospital. Included in the varied musical programme were piano and recorder solos, a Scottish medley from a seven strong keyboard group, and songs from 'Oliver' sung by the school's Junior Choir. The programme concluded with the singing of Scottish songs in which the elderly patients happily participated. The very enjoyable afternoon proved conclusively that the 'Age Gap' can be bridged quite easily - with just a little effort.

1988 – **Strathclyde Concerts Project** gave a performance in the Magnum Theatre. The school was well represented. Mark Pentleton's own composition was performed by seven members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. A high honour indeed! The following pupils took part in the Cadenza groups and performed on keyboards and synthesizers; Mark Hunter, Kirsty Watterson, Julie Steele, Dannie Finnie, Susan McKell and Kirsty Campbell.

Pro-Life Cell 1991

The St Michael's Academy Pro-life Cell has been active for 8 years. It was started by four teachers (Mr B Walsh, Mr J Walsh, Mrs King and Miss Lennon) with a group of 5th/6th year pupils. Its main function is to provide layettes for the Innocents Society (at least two per year) in Kilmarnock which gives them to a mother in need. This support can make the difference between a mother keeping her baby and having an abortion.

This year the Pro-Life Cell is being run by a group of 6th year pupils: Bernadette McFadden (Chairperson), Christine Russell, Lorna Dowell, Kevin Penman, Michael Tricker and Johnny McKinlay. The teacher representatives are Mrs MacMahon and Mrs Merrick.

An important part of the Pro-life Cell is fund-raising and so far this year we have had 3 fund-raising functions: a cake and candy, a disco and a beardathon. A sponsored walk has also been planned for next month. The money we have raised has been used to fund two layettes and also allowed us to donate £150 to SPUC and £150 to the Innocents. We have also attended masses and conferences and have a few more on the agenda. Rosanne Reddy, a representative from SPUC, visited the school and gave the group a very worthwhile talk on Abortion.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The Award Scheme operated in St. Michael's Academy for several years, coordinated by Mrs C McGuire. The scheme is a demanding one - to achieve the Bronze Award, participants are required to fulfil the aims of four areas: sport, skill, community service and expedition.

St Michael's pupils tackled a variety of sports, particularly volleyball. In the skill section, pupils chose from our wide range of hobbies to learn how to play a musical instrument; learn to knit or sew; develop communication skills; participate in drama etc.

Community service also demonstrated the variety of pupil interests: visiting old people's homes; helping the handicapped; visiting hospitals; and supervising youth groups.

The Expedition was perhaps the most gruelling, yet enjoyable, area of the scheme, offering physical challenge and demanding knowledge and skill. Pupils were trained in map-reading, camping craft, first aid and the building of stamina. At Bronze level, pupils had to spend two days walking and a night in the open.

A number of pupils achieved the Bronze and Silver Awards while at St Michael's and went on to pursue Gold once they had left school.

A Tribute to Mr. P.J. Leahy, R.I.P.

By Sister Pauline, C.P. - 2 February, 1991

It was with sorrow that I learned less than two weeks ago that Mr Leahy was gravely ill, following a sudden stroke. Within a week, he had died in hospital. May he rest in peace.

I feel that more than anyone else who taught in St Michael's - Irvine and Kilwinning - I owe thanks and appreciation for the years that we worked together and I hope that in this Commemorative Magazine of the last twenty five years of the school, I may be able to record, in a little way, my affection and esteem.

I met Mr Leahy for the first time in 1940 when I went to teach in Irvine. My appointment was then to the Primary Department of the College, but it was from 1946 onwards when I transferred to the Secondary Department, and more especially from 1950 when I succeeded the school's first Principal, Sister Mechtilde Joseph, that I worked closely with him and really got to know him.

Mr Leahy had come from Shrewsbury to St Michael's College in 1928 and he gave all of his forty three years of teaching to the school. In the years that followed, he lived the history, first of a young, developing secondary school which drew its pupils from an area of Ayrshire, extending on one side to Largs, Beith and Kilbirnie, and on the other, to Muirkirk, Cumnock, Dalmellington and Ayr; but, by the time of his retiral, November, 1971, many important changes had taken place. Catchment areas had been altered, the school had become Comprehensive and was catering for nine hundred girls and boys in a new, purpose-built, modern school building in Kilwinning. Moreover, the familiar and well-loved name of St Michael's College had been replaced by that of St Michael's Academy. Mr Leahy who for many years had been Principal teacher of the Science Department was now the first Deputy Head of the school where his assistance in administration was gladly welcomed.

He had been in the school in the years before the disastrous fire of 1939, which utterly destroyed it overnight and robbed it of all that it possessed. In the days of World War II and subsequently, along with others, he put up with the attendant difficulties of working in much less than adequate conditions in temporary classrooms, while we endured the long, twenty five years of waiting for a new school to be built. I well remember on one occasion, in the fifties, when in the harshest of winters, an overhead cistern burst in what we then called the 'Playroom'. On arrival at school, next morning, I

met Mr Leahy, literally, shovelling water out of the flooded building. This was typical of him. So, it was a tremendous joy when, in the early sixties, the work on the building of the new school really got under way. For this, the present site in Kilwinning had been chosen by the Education Authority. By the summer of 1965 work was nearing completion and in the transfer from Irvine, Mr Leahy was among the foremost in organizing and shouldering the additional hard work of removal.

When I think of Mr Leahy, I see before my eyes, a teacher who was most meticulous and competent in his work; a perfectionist in big things and in small; a quiet, thoughtful person; a kind, compassionate and generous man, who, unobtrusively, and often hiddenly, helped, individually, many a girl and boy.

Among his colleagues, he was held in the highest esteem. All sought his advice and benefited from his experience. He loved the school and jealously guarded its good name, rejoicing in its successes. For many years he organised the School Sports and, in the days before we had a full-time Games Mistress, he helped with the Girls' Hockey Team. It would be impossible to mention the countless other services that he gave. He will long be remembered in the minds and hearts of his pupils and colleagues. With his passing, much of an era has gone.

I am very glad that on a number of occasions since his retiral, I was able to visit Mr and Mrs. Leahy in their home, and that, while I was in Africa, Christmas always brought greetings and news. My last visit was very special. This was on 4 November of last year, when Doreen, former School Secretary, kindly brought me to see them. Mr Leahy was astonished to find that I knew that this was his birthday and we had the loveliest afternoon, reminiscing together about the old days. The memory of that final meeting remains as a precious one, not to be forgotten.

I salute Mr Leahy, a loyal, faithful colleague and a sincere friend, and along with him, our other colleagues who are already with God.

To Mrs Leahy, I give my heartfelt sympathy and promise of prayer. May she find comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Sister Pauline, C.P.



BRIAN HENDRY

Since taking up Cross Country running in season 1990, Brian has attained the following notable achievements: 7th in the Scottish Schoolboys Championships in 1990. This year he has already won the U-15 Ayrshire Schools championship and was 8th in the Scottish Schoolboys Championships.

Swimming around Europe, 1991

"I learned to swim when I was a baby. I have represented Cunninghame A.S.C. in numerous galas and in Scottish championships. I have travelled to Aberdeen, Dundee, Leeds, Leicester and Darmstadt (Germany), making a lot of good friends. You have to train hard, but it pays off in the long run." **Natalie Gee**



Nun On The Run – Sr.

Bernadette in full flight during the 1975 Staff v Pupils Hockey match



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A Day in the Life of

All eyes in the civilised world were on Neil Armstrong as he slowly descended from his craft and touched down onto Lunar soil. Everyday I step down from a Western Scottish bus and touch down onto the tarmac of St. Michaels Academy and proceed either to my registration class, or on a Friday to assembly. Assembly, where the object is to try and listen to the moral and promise to abide by it, instead of appearing to be awake and conscious when, in fact you can't help but wonder why some of the Christmas cards haven't yet been taken down; or why we are asked to suffer agony to our spine for ten minutes by sitting in such juvenile seats; or why the assembly hall must always smell, distinctly, like vomit.

After assembly it is required of a fifth year to dezombify him/herself before the first class, after which he/she may go and have a hot snack at the school cafe. I myself am a regular goer to this dinner-hall where the prices steadily rise as inflation falls and the same cream buns that were fresh on Monday are still on sale on Friday. Still, there is a relative degree of calmness there, every morning, until the afternoon, when the rest of the school is unleashed upon it, running through the corridors like a pack of wolves to ensure a place in the queue. (Fourth years must remember that the definition of a queue means to join at the end and not to proceed straight to the front where a friend or a group of friends might be situated. That way, a fifth year night stand there for half an hour and actually got somewhere). After lunch, I then go down to the school library just for the thrill of seeing how quickly I can get turned away. So then I proceed to stand in a corridor only to be told by a teacher that I shouldn't be there and so lunchtime is spent wondering why there isn't a recreation room for fifth and sixth years containing pool tables and dartboards and other leisure facilities to ensure that we don't seek entertainment from vandalism instead.

At 3.30pm the final bell goes and it's a race to see who can be first up to the buses, where the driver forgets to ask for our bus pass and we forget to show him. Of course it is essential that the bus-driver must have a psychological hate for children and a mental

driving disability. Then I can relax in the knowledge that this will be my daily routine for a few more months. Then what?

Andrew Clifford V



Well here I am at the bus stop. Gosh it's cold! I wish the bus would come. Aha, here it is, on I get. It's nice and warm in here. Ah, well I might as well have a rest. Here already, ok off I get. Hoi, stop pushing! It's cold again. I'd better get inside quickly and

just wait for the bell. Aha, there it goes, time for registration.

Whew, a seat that's better! What do we get first John? English not bad. That's the register being called . . . here sir. There goes the bell. English here we come.

Whow, lunchtime at last I think I'll just have a cheese roll today . . . thanks. Mmmm that was nice. What now? P.E. – good my favourite. I hope it's football. It is football; great; one goal coming up! Hometime at last; it's been a long day.

Jim O'Kane S2

from bulletins of 1979:

R.I.P. Dan Dawson and Marjorie Robertson.

Most intriguing of the notes for early lunches is "Acropolis Builder".

School prize giving will be on 27th June.

Found – a Rangers supporters pin – this may be claimed from the Rector at own risk.

21.12.79: Girls have permission to wear trousers today.

160 parcels distributed by Sr. Dominic and S6.

REGISTRATION

Life as they say is a bummer. You get born you die and sometime in between you might just get out of here. Come on Big Jim. Get on with it. Registration is so boring when you're in Fifth year. Why can't we just sign in? Will things ever change in this dump?

PERIOD 1

P.E. Social Dancing. Hooray. This is what your average healthy Fifth year male wants.

Organised grappling with the opposite sex. Now where are you Margaret Mack? You can not be serious. You want me to demonstrate. You must be new around here Miss Callaghan. I don't dance with females whose hair goes all the way down to her... oooh. Watch me toes woman.

PERIOD 2

Chemistry is a mistake. I should be taking Biology even if its only to get a better view of Sindy. Or what ever the new Biology female is called. GLAMOOOOUROURS. Where does she get all those clothes from? Is that red hair real? Why does it never move, even in a strong breeze?

Chemistry has its compensations. Winnie Conway's legs were specifically designed with the view (which is great by the way) to convincing me that I should give her my Chemistry homework. What's this about her going out with my brother. Future sister in law. Get serious man.

PERIOD 3

This is bogus Man. Completely bogus. Why am I being flung out of Sr. B's French class? Who is this guy with all the hair? Why are there so many new faces around here? Je ne sais pas dude. Who made this guy's tongue Wilkenson Sword? Maybe he'll mellow with age.

PERIOD 4

Geography is a breeze. I think I'm good at this. People tell me I've got a future in Geography. exploring the South Pole? Mapping the Great Wall of China? What does the future hold for this great Geographer?

PERIOD 5

Great Mysteries of our time. Why does "Sly Bacon" Cunningham call me "Sambo"? Why is Mrs Mitchell's poetry homework so difficult? Why am I sitting in the library doing it? Why is this new History teacher with the big glasses bugging me? Me. Disturbing your class? You're surely not going to report me to The Dom. You ARE? don't you understand children at all?

CONCLUSION

Who are all these people? Why are they coming down on me? What is the meaning of Life? Who would be a TEACHER?

NOT ME! NO DANGER!! NO WAY JOSE!!!

Paul Dorrian, circa 1973

Law and Order

As part of the S1 Modern Studies course the pupils look at the issue of Law and Order - the police, the courts, prisons and children's hearings. The police also visit the school and give the pupils an illustrated talk on the dangers of drugs.

Towards the end of their course the pupils investigate an issue dealing with a topic they have already covered in class.

These two pupils Ryan Boyle and Jennifer Hughes dealt with a "Day in the Life of a Policeman" and interviewed Constable Paterson of the Irvine Police Station Community Involvement Branch.



Green Kids

Our pupils recently helped Cunninghame District Council to win a £30,000 prize for a steel can recycling plant, in the BBC TV "Going Live" children's programme competition. Petitions were organised by 37 groups in the district - the St Michael's one had 533 signatures. Our school was represented at the presentation, in Irvine, by Siobhan Duffy 404 and Mr McNulty.

SPORTS FEATURE – 5



1966 Badminton



Senior Netball 1968



Intermediate XI. Winners of Ayrshire Intermediate Cup and North Ayrshire League. Back Row – K. Dorrian, J. Timmons, D. Penleton, J. Sheehan, A. Cochran, F. McLaughlin, T. Lennon, B. Moultrie, M. McGoogan. Front Row – D. Smith, J. Taylor, F. Moran, J. Hunter, J. McGonagle, T. O'Neill, J. Scullion.



U-16 Football 1973-74. Winners of the Ayrshire Cup, runners-up in the Ayrshire League. Back Row – J. Jenkins, S. McLaughlin, J. Hume, P. Donoghue, T. Nocker, J. McKenna, T. Sweeney. Front Row – M. Murphy, F. Breslin, J. McAloon, O. Dorans, J. Donald & J. Denvir.

THE GULF WAR

Overhead comes the drone of planes,
I'm glad there's not two Saddam
Husseins.

In the soldiers' hearts there's terror and
fear,

At home the relatives shed many a
tear.

For the sailors on a boat or ship,
It certainly isn't a holiday trip.

And all this because of greed and
power,

Has now turned our sweet to sour.

Scott Ryan, 101

BIRD IN A CAGE

All day long, I sit on my swing,
Trying to please, trying to sing,
They don't know how I'm crying,
They don't know how I'm trying,
To get used to life sat in a cage,
Sitting on perch, concealing my rage!

Julie Hughes, 101

BIRD IN A CAGE

I look around and what do I see,
A man throwing fish and the
chimpanzees' tea.

I wish I was out there flying up high,
I wish I was out there high in the sky.

I'm stuck in this cage for all to see,
Oh, how I wish that I was free.
I saw a lion roaming about
That just makes me want to shout.

But I just sit here twittering all day,
I must get out; I will find a way.
But no, a cat has caught my eye,
I'm safer here, way up high.

Anne Murphy, 103

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN A FLAME?

What do you see in a flame riding
high?

I see rivers and valleys and a clear
blue sky

In this picturesque, make-believe land
People are walking hand in hand

Always joy and never strife,
Just contented peaceful life.

Sarah Docherty, 101

Debating Club 1991

Last year a Senior Debating Club was
started after 3.30pm with some success.
This year it was decided to widen the
club to incorporate all year groups and
especially to encourage younger pupils.

The club meets on Friday lunchtimes
and so far has debated diverse topics
such as:

**"Using animal research is
unnecessary in the 1990's."**

**"Christ is being left out of
Christmas."**

**"The death penalty should be
reintroduced in the UK."**

"War is NOT the answer."

There has been no shortage of volunteers
to speak and the speakers have ranged
from S1 to S6. Audience size varies with
topic but we have many who attend and
ask questions every week.

From a 1976 bulletin:

Susan Anderson and Les Carr took a party
of Biologists for a weekend to Lendalfoot.
The weather was perfect – rain, driving
winds and biting cold. The pupils returned
to school like La Grande Armee from
Moscow.

From Stage to Stage . . .

"Our dream has become a reality", wrote Sister Pauline in the programme of "The Pirates Of Penzance" in 1967. The new building offered new facilities and new opportunities, and a team of staff and pupils, under Joe Mannion as producer and Harry MacFarlane as musical director, presented "our first Gilbert and Sullivan".

Others followed; "The Mikado" in 1969, "The Gondoliers" in 1971 (Mr. J. Brodie as producer), and "HMS Pinafore" in 1973, incidentally providing melodious choruses during a Roman England week. Mr. J. Leishman and his team masterminded production of the stunning sets. The series of operettas lapsed when we lost Mr. MacFarlane to Queen Margaret Academy.

The school has been alive with drama activity for most of the 25 years. Mrs. Ingrid Smith and Mr. Cassidy organised productions between 1973 and 1976, and Mr I.J. Dickson has done so since 1979, with the assistance of Miss Mary McLaughlin (1979-81), Mr. Frank Farrell (1981-82), Miss M. McCourt (from 1982), and many others. There was a gap in activity during sessions 1985-88.



The Drama Club in March 1980, after winning the Ayrshire Senior Shield: front row: Jim Rooney, Catherine Craig, Anne McMillan, Gerald Donnelly and Anne Weideger. Seniors directed by Mr. Dickson, juniors by Mr. Dorrian.

Dramatically, the school has tackled everything from Ayckbourn (1981/2) to Ionesco (1983), from Greek comedy "Birds" 1990 to York Mystery plays (1980), from a Burns poem (1979) to a Shakespeare extract (1981), from sketches performed round classes (1984) to full scale pantomimes, each playing to over

1500 people (1981 & 1985, musical directors Mr. J. Gow and Mrs. A. Adamson; sets designed by Mr. R. A. Smith). It has performed everywhere from primary schools to The Ayrshire Schools Drama Festival, and even delivered a few lines on the same big stage as Derek Jacobi in "Much Ado" the previous evening, during the Drama Club visit to Stratford in 1982.

The Drama Club is proud of its record of tackling a wide range of plays, of involving large numbers of pupils of all abilities and, most importantly, of delegating to pupils, who all have responsibility on the night of performance, even to the extent of directing short items as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Work.



Some of the cast of Hickory Dickory Dock, the 1983 pantomime, including Brian Hughes, Bernadette Todman, Paul McMahon, Brendan Garry, Steven McCutcheon, Robert O'Donoghue and Noel Tomnay.



The Drama Club and Drama Class in March 1984. The Club had just won the Junior Cup. The photo includes main characters Carole Hannan, Patrick Browne and Heather Cowan and seniors Jayne McGreer and John McMillan.



The Pirates of Penzance

June 1967

The sisters eavesdrop on Mabel (*Patricia Whyte*) and Frederick (*Edward McMillan*)

Geography Field Trips

Within the Geography Department, fieldwork is regarded as an important part of the learning process and pupils are given every opportunity and encouragement to participate in fieldwork activities. Such activities include visits to local factories and farms, interviewing Forestry Commission Officers at David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle, urban studies in Callander and Glasgow, to name a but a few.

In addition to such day outings, a valuable contribution to fieldwork is made by Glaisnock Residential Education Centre near Cumnock. Our Geography Department has been making good use of Glaisnock's facilities for some time now. Each year groups of S3 and S4 Standard Grade pupils, Higher Grade Geography and Ordinary Grade Geology candidates attend week long courses designed to allow them to develop an understanding of their environment. Days are spent carrying out a variety of field work tasks in the surrounding area under the guidance and supervision of trained instructors. Information gathered during the day then forms the basis for laboratory work in the evening. All courses are challenging and require a high level of effort and commitment.

Whether taking part in a day trip or a lengthier course at Glaisnock, all pupils gain a considerable amount of knowledge and return to school having thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

THE SCHOOL BAND

The band have played together for about four months since October. Mr Cush took the blame by saying it was his idea to start the band.

It consists of Mr Cush on keyboards, Anthony Hume also on keyboards, Lorna Dowell on bass guitar, Derek Pentleton on lead guitar, Lesley O'Neill on drums and Jason McCartan on Vocals.

The band have a great atmosphere in the studio; a lot of laughs but also they do get a lot of work done which is quite surprising with Mr Cush there. The band practice twice a week.

Outside the band they have individual hobbies, Jason likes acting and is a member of the Drama Club. Lesley and Anthony both like Art. Lorna likes badminton and Derek and Mr Cush didn't say what other things they like to do.

The band have a number of songs; their all time favourite is Comfortably Numb and their worst is Walk of Life. They are not planning anything at the moment but would like to play at some time a Concert for the school.

Behind the scenes there is Joseph Cunningham who is in charge of lights and sound, which a lot of people didn't know.

Stephen Gill 405

Typist's comment: Well all we can say now is keep the beat going and we hope to see you on Top of the Pops in around five years, reaching for that number one on the chart climber.

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The Book Trail

The Book Trail was started in the English Department in August 1989. Mrs Mitchell is the Organiser and all members of the Department are involved in ensuring that the system runs smoothly.

The aim of the Book Trail is to foster the reading habit among our pupils, especially those in the First and Second Years. Reading for Pleasure is an essential aspect of any child's development, and good habits formed at an early stage will bear fruit later. Children who are keen readers usually do well in English.

There are five awards available to pupils - Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Pupils proceed at their own pace and are encouraged by their teachers to read and to complete the requisite number of Book Trail Sheets.

Parents too are involved. At the start of the school year, all parents of First and Second Year pupils are sent a letter explaining how the book trail operates. They are also given a list of recommended books so that they can help their child to select books appropriate to their age and stage.

The Book Trail has been voted a success by staff and pupils alike. During session 1989/90 out of a year group of 158, 83 pupils gained the Bronze Award, 54, the Silver and 22 the Gold. As a result of the popularity of the Book Trail, the more challenging Platinum and Diamond Awards were devised for S2 pupils.

By January 1991 50 Bronze, 25 Silver and 10 Gold awards had been distributed along with 10 Platinum and 2 Diamond Awards.

It is hoped that the Book Trail will continue for many years in St Michael's.

Footnote: Since 1988, the readers of St Michael's have contributed almost £550 to Readathon for the Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.

Some of the Book Trail winners 1990-91

(from top left to lower right) Geraldine Gallagher, Lorna Tutty, Laura Cameron, Marie Barbour, Alison Auld, Michael Connolly, Leigh McFarland, Delia Gee, Sarah Docherty, Anne Murphy, Lisa Bridgewater, Jane Harrison and Stephen Russell.

Christian Heritage

In 1986, some pupils, under the direction of Sister Dominic Savio, Principal Teacher of History, were first in the National Heritage Competition. Their prize was £500 for the school and a visit to a centre of Christian heritage.

Sister Dominic Savio took the ten Second Year pupils to Iona as part of their prize. Mass was celebrated for the group in Iona Abbey.

In the photo: Gerry Boyle, Paul Cockburn, Mark Pentleton, James Thompson, Mark Moore, Jim Rhodes, Ivana Micheli, Kerry Anne Shedden, Pauline Jackson, Janey Agnew, Hazel Meikle, Maggie Bowie, Catherine Howie, Marilyn Sweeney, Catherine Gallacher, Claire McCallum, Anne-Marie Cockburn, Lesley Gilchrist, Andrea Falsay, Janet Warren, Angela Keenan, Jane Pollock, Catherine Murphy.



Answers to quiz (page 20)

1. 1974. 2. 1986. 3. 1981.
4. 1973. 5. 1976. 6. 1980.
7. 1985. 8. 1988. 9. 1972.
10. 1967.



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Senior Pupils 1965



Senior Pupils 1990



SPORTS SNIPPETS

FOOTBALL

1st Year Football 1965-66

Record for the year - Played 9, won 11, lost 1. Goals for 63 against 27. Top scorer - Dennis Burns 16, John McVeigh 13.

Team - Moultrie, McIlwain, Dorrian, Reid, McCulloch, McGrattan, Scullion, Atkins, McLaughlin, McVeigh, O' Sullivan, Berry, McDade, Burns, Medine, Hughes, Cunningham, McNamara and McGoogan.

Senior Football

This has been an outstanding season for the senior team. They have scored 117 goals with only 7 against in all their games. Winners of the Ayrshire League and cup. Lost in the semi - final of the Scottish Cup. Top goal scorer - Lou Macari with 32 goals.

Jim Clarke and Lou Macari played for Scottish Schools. Jim Clarke also played for the Scottish Youth team. Hugh McKellar played for Scottish Boys clubs. John McIlhatton played for the Scottish Amateur League team.

Six of the boys were chosen to represent Ayrshire Schools against the rest of Scotland.

1977-78

Eddie Gilhooley and Christopher Russell are in the final of the Scottish Regional Cup football team to play against the North of Scotland.

1978-79

Stephen Gilhooley represented Ayrshire and reached the last 40 for the International Trial.

Professional Footballers

Bobby Lennox - Celtic and Scotland now coach to Celtic reserves.

Lou Macari - Celtic and Manchester United. Managed Swindon Town, West Ham and current manager of Birmingham City.

Eddie Monan - Ayr United

Joseph Murray - Newcastle United and Stoke City

John Murray - Morton FC and Celtic

Jim Clarke - Celtic FC.

Hugh McKellar - Celtic FC.

Joe Timmons - Grade 1 referee with Scottish and English FA's. Only referee in Britain to achieve this.

Jim Fleeting - Norwich City, Tampa Bay Rowdies and Ayr United. Managed Stirling Albion and is currently manager of Kilmarnock FC.

Paul Clarke - Kilmarnock FC.

Dougie McGuire - Celtic, Sunderland and

Coventry City.

Derek Wells - Dundee FC.

Vincent Rae - Aberdeen FC.

Players who excelled on the football field at various levels : Ian Baillie, David McIlroy, Brian Moultrie, Jim Hunter, Jim Clarke, Les Carr, Brian Moultrie, Andy Graham, Jo Hume, Owen Dorans, Jim Jenkins, Francis Breslin, Jim Shanks, Eamon Fallon, Michael Gerraghty and Gerard Rodger.

HOCKEY

1972-73

For the first time in St Michaels history the 3rd Year hockey team have won the South West District Tournament at Marr College, Troon. The team owe their success to the hard work and dedication of their PE teachers; Mrs Liz Devine (McKelvey), herself a former pupil and Mrs Joan Happs. Well done girls! Deirdre Scott, Maureen Ward and Marie McCluskie were chosen to represent Ayrshire at Junior level.

1973-74

Marie O' Sullivan represented Ayrshire at volleyball, netball and hockey. Marie scored the winning goal against Renfrewshire in the Scottish Inter District tournament.

Sally Anne McIntee has been selected to captain Ayrshire in the forthcoming District hockey tournament at Senior level.

1979-80

Karen Docherty and Carol Anne Craig represented Ayrshire at Junior level.

1988-89

Dianne McNeillie and Louise Robertson were chosen to represent South West District at U-18 level. Both played for the U-21 district team the following year. The girls play with Ardeer Hockey Club coached by Winnie Dorrian (Conway).

Special mention should be given to all the girls who played week in, week out, travelling all over the South West, especially: Anne McLaughlin, Clara Murray, Liz McKelvey, Catherine McCann, Pat Tracy, Gratzia Biagi, Stephanie Reilly, Bernadette McCourt, Patricia and Irene Walker, Jannette and Helene Anderson, Winnie Conway, Ellen Trayner, Isobel McDonald, Sally McIntee, Marie O'Sullivan, Bernadette McGinty, Marie McCluskie, Deirdre Scott, Maureen Ward,

Marie McCluskie, Karen Docherty, Carol-Anne Craig, Lesley McGeown, Louise Robertson and Dianne McNeillie.

Badminton 1974-75

The badminton club meets every Tuesday evening in the Girl's gym and is being run by Miss Dorrian of the Maths Department. Team to play Auchenhavrie:

Ladies

Moirá Bradley
Barbara McGrath
Marade Ballantyne
Julie Forbes

Gents

John Valerio
John Boothman
Luigi Macari
Anthony Da Prato

To date we have no record of this team winning a game!!

The Badminton Club is still operating today but purely on a leisure basis under the watchful eye of Mr B Walsh.

Athletics 1976-77

At the Ayrshire finals held at Dam Park Ayr, Mark Devine won the long jump competition with Michael Dillon winning the 200 metres.

1978-79

Anne Marie Higgins won the Scottish Schoolgirls High Jump setting a new record of 5'5". Anne Marie was sixth in the U.K. championships.

Karen Docherty was 3rd in the U-16 Scottish Schoolgirls Hurdles.

1989-90

Brian Holliman won the U-18 Scottish Schoolboys 100m.

1990-91

Brian Hendry won the Ayrshire U-15 cross country championships. Finished 8th in the Scottish cross country event.

Susan McNairney finished 10th in the Scottish U-13 championships.

Dominating athletes through the school were: Joe and Tommy Timmons, Patricia and Irene Walker, Maria Fitzpatrick, Isobel McDonald, Sally McIntee, Liam Griffen, Mark Devine, Bernadette Morgan, Martin and Brian Hendry, Jim Hughes and Anne Marie Higgins.

BASKETBALL

1967-68

T. Booth, T. Campbell and F. McLaughlin were selected to play for the North Ayrshire team.

NETBALL

St Michael's have always had a very strong tradition in Netball. Many players have represented their counties at all levels with some going onto International level.

Some notable names are: Clara Murray, Liz McKelvey, Anne McManus, Betty Love, Gail Docherty, Lesley McGeown, Kathleen Blaney, Sally McIntee, Marie O'Sullivan, Patricia Walker, Maureen Ward, Deirdre Scott, Liz Duffy, Karen Anne McNeill, Kathleen Cosgrove, Elaine Smith, Clare Kelly, Gillian Aire, Margaret Pollock, Julie Darrock and Clare McQuade.

1966-67

Winners of the Scottish Shield. Only St Michael's team ever to win this trophy.

1969-70

Winners of the Inter District tournament, undefeated all season.

3rd Year 1978-79

Undefeated all season. Went onto win North Ayrshire League and Ayrshire Cup.

4 of this team went onto represent Ayrshire.

Y. O' Brien, L. Hall, H. Forde and A. McMillan.

SENIORS

The following girls represented Ayrshire at U-18 level, P Cardle, S O'Brian and C Burnett.

1985-86

Lesley McGeown and Gail Docherty represented Ayrshire at U-16 level. Gail went onto represent Scotland at this level.

1989-90

The following girls represented Scotland at U-16 level, Gillian Aire, Karen Anne McNeill, Kathleen Cosgrove, Margaret Pollock, Clare Kelly, Elaine Smith and Julie Darroch.

STILL ACTIVE

Although extra curricular activities were curtailed after the dispute of 1984, the following teams are still active: Netball - all year groups, Hockey - 1st, 2nd and 4th year, Basketball - 4th year and Badminton - all year groups.



Pat, Tommy and Harry



*Former pupils who now work
in St. Michael's*



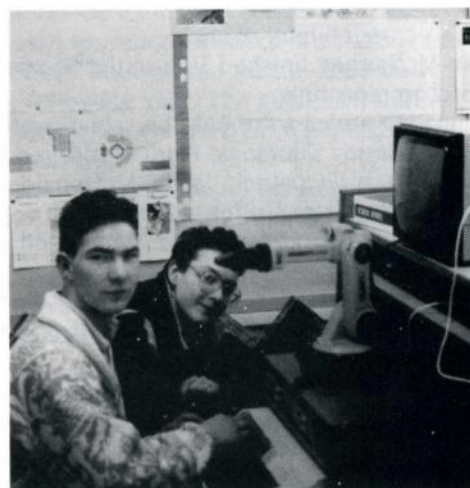
*1985 Teachers march for better pay and
conditions*



1990 Cockenzie Farm visit



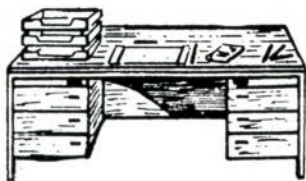
Sale of work by SVS class (Soc. & Voc.)



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Dux Medallists, Boys' Captains and Girls' Captains 1966-91

1966	Helen Duffin	John McFarlane	Marysia Kolodziej
1967	Patricia Kelly	Samuel Martin	Mary Boyle
1968	Matthew McFarlane	Francis O'Neil	Patricia Kelly
1969	Michael Dolan	Francis Callaghan	Marie Clark
1970	Elizabeth Conlan	John Duffin	Mary J Taylor
1971	Mary McCourt	James Welsh	Moiria Kernahan
1972	Eileen McNairney	James Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Breslin
	Paul Clark		
	Colin Moultrie		
1973	Brian Dolan	Robert Valerio	Theresa McLaughlin
1974	Sarah Donohoe	Paul Dorrian	Barbara Boyd
1975	Peter Magee	Michael Donnelly	Barbara McGrath
1976	Lesley Paul	Joseph Clancy	Margaret Blake
1977	Charles T Stewart	James McMillan	Catherine Cherry
1978	Janice O'Connell	Michael Dillon	June Hughes
1979	Marian P Kolodziej	Edward McCaffrey	Kathleen McAulay
1980	Maria Sfarra	-	Maria O'Donoghue
	Brian Teaz		
1981	Paul McGeown	Michael Keenan	Elaine Maxwell
1982	Richard Paul	James Boyle	Anne McMillan
1983	John Booth	Brian Littlemore	Andrea Costanzo
1984	Margaret A Neison	Brian Higgins	Karen Docherty
1985	Colin McVey	Felix McGunnigle	Dawn King
1986	Julie Meikle	Alan Taylor	Yvonne McGunnigle
1987	Anthony Pascual	Alan Burt	Frances Loy
1988	Steven Hunter	John Hughes	Lauren Macary
1989	Hazel Meikle	Brian Holliman	Claire Wilson
	Mark Pentleton		
1990	Thomas Greenan	Bernadette McFadden	Paul Canning

The Chaplain's Task

This is the fourth year I have been in St Michael's - and they have been very enjoyable years. The very well organised and hard working R.E Department in the school made life easy from the beginning. My approach to the school has been a sort of wedge shaped approach to things. First of all becoming familiar with the school, simply spending time here. Often this means just being around, in effect wasting time in the school. As time went past and I got to know the school and the pupils a bit better it became easier to target particular groups. This is now the fourth year for example that we have had day retreats at Smithstone House. Initially this was only for first year, but now these extend from First to Fourth year. Another very rewarding exercise has been the Sixth year retreat at Kinharvie over the past couple of years. As well as retreat work there have been the usual liturgies like class masses, penance services

and other whole school celebrations.

Being a Chaplain though involves more than this formal contact. More important is the informal contact with pupils which can lead to other things. It is only once pupils are comfortable with the Chaplain that his or her work becomes meaningful. Working in and being part of the school offers opportunities for sharing in young people's lives which would otherwise be impossible. A large number of the pupils have no connection with the Church or religion other than via the school. This offers challenges and opportunities. My aim is to try to be a positive influence and lead pupils to an awareness of their own dignity and that of others. Believe it or not, the Spirit of God is present in each person's life in some way. My task is to lead people to an awareness of that presence.

Fr Hutchison

MORE PAST PUPIL NEWS

DOREEN McNAIRNEY (now McCarthy) left school in 1971. She is now teaching at the International High School in Papua New Guinea. Doreen, and her husband, had spent 3 years in the Bahamas, before going to Papua New Guinea nearly three years ago. She finds teaching a very enjoyable and challenging experience, as she has students of so many different cultures and backgrounds. She says "I often think back to my schooldays in St Michael's with tremendous fondness. It was a very caring school."

CAROLYN WALLIS, after graduating BEd in St Andrew's Bearsden, served for two years with the sisters of Notre Dame in their mission school in Nigeria. Since returning to Scotland, she has been teaching and counselling in Douglas Ewart High School, in the south of the country. She enjoys her work very much.

GERALD QUINN has made a name for himself in the singing world. He studied Music in Manchester and abroad and is a member of the Glynbourne Opera. Last year he represented Scotland in the Cardiff Welsh Competition for the world's singer.

JANE McDERMID left St Michael's in 1968. In 1972 she was awarded an M.A.Hons (2.1) in Modern and Medieval History by Glasgow University. From 1975-79 she worked as a part time tutor in Modern History, and in 1980 took up her present position as a lecturer in Modern History at La Sainte Union College of Education in Southampton; she has since acquired a Dip.Ed and a M.A. Ed in the History of Education, and a Ph.D. in History - her thesis was on the evolution of Soviet attitudes towards women and the family. At

the moment she is engaged in research leading to an M.Phil. in Education.

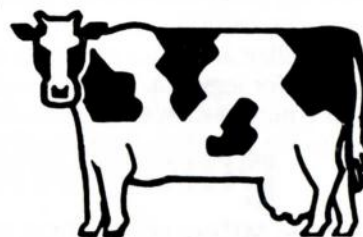
MARY McCOURT (Dux in 1971) went to Strathclyde University. She spent a year abroad in Lycee Gay-Lussac in Chauny. After graduating with honours she returned to France and taught in the University of Picardy in Amiens. Then she decided to return to Scotland to train as a teacher at Notre Dame Teacher Training College. She applied to teach in Glasgow but by some quirk of fate was appointed to St Michael's.

KEVAN GARTLAND is now a Wellcome Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry, Birkbeck College, University of London, where he graduated PhD in 1987 in Biochemical Toxicology. He currently researches the use of NMR spectroscopy to examine cerebrospinal fluid and human bile and other gastrointestinal body fluids.

THERESA (nee MCLAUGHLIN) HAWKINS (Head Girl 1972-73) graduated MA in French and Hispanic Studies in 1977, having enjoyed a year in the little village of Gevrey-Chambertin, renowned for its excellent red Burgundy, mustard and other gastronomic delights. She has since worked for the Lovable Company in Cumbernauld ("they say sweat shops exist only in the Far East!"), married a C.A., headed for Jamaica, "spent a year soaking up the sun and teaching Spanish in Immaculate Conception High School in Kingston; that year was not all sun, sea and sand - we had to face the occasional shoot-out at the supermarket and drive-in", worked for a short time with Aer Lingus in Glasgow, and now lives in West Kilbride, awaiting the birth of their third child in the summer.

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Make the Most of it

The schooldays of 1944. Gosh! was I terrified of my teachers then! One in particular kept a stick up the back of her jumper, and if you moved an inch in your seat, she pounced WHAM! across the fingers - ouch, I still remember it. So you can guess what happened if you didn't do your homework - marks half way up your arm from the dreaded BELT. Her hair in a bun, thick lyle stockings, tweed skirt and always the JUMPER, to keep the stick in.

Now Tuesday to Friday - Monday I go to lift my pension - I look forward to going to classes at St Michael's with my friend Ellen - much younger than me, I must tell you, or she'll huff - our biggest worry is, will we get a space in the car park? We have a good laugh comparing the homework, and if we haven't done it, a guilty feeling of having let not only ourselves but our teacher down.

We have the same opportunity as you young ones to achieve something, maybe only a crash course "O" level Spanish, but to us it's a challenge, and if it comes off it's a big achievement.

I truly wish I had had the opportunities you have. The opportunity and challenge of academics and sports - (SPORT for us was navy knickers and vest, and if you didn't have navy knickers or couldn't jump the dreaded HORSE the dreaded BELT) that can shape the course of your lives. Make the most of it, you owe it to yourselves.

Ellen and I rushing in for our class see you all in your modern gear! cullotes! girls, and you handsome young men! But what strikes us the most is the informality in the class - don't abuse it kids - and the very modern, good-looking teachers, young and . . . getting on!! but still modern in their outlook.

And the discipline! we still try to slip down the UP stairs, but if Mr — or Mr Maxwell are about we hightail it round the corner to the DOWN.

From Ellen and I our thanks to the staff and pupils for letting us join you in today's modern educational system, and our best wishes to the Academy for success in the future.

Mrs Millar (GRAN CATH!)

In Memoriam

We remember with great affection the following teachers who are now deceased; the dates record their service at St Michael's:

Sister Cecily (c. 1965) (French)
Mr Dan Dawson (PT Business Studies)
Mrs Helen Duffin (1959-76) (French)
Mrs Ennis (1959-66) (Home Economics)
Sister Eugenius (to 1971) History & Classics)
Mr Laird (1951-64) (Maths)
Mr P J Leahy (1928-71) (Physics; Deputy Rector)
Mr J Leishman (1946-85) (PT Technical)
Mrs Kay McCallum (Modern Studies)
Mr James McKinley (1955-84) (Guidance)
Sister Mary of St. Michael
Sister Maura (1973-82) (Modern Languages)
Mr Hugh Medine (1952-68) (PT Chemistry)
Mr Edward Mellan (1948-80) (French; Deputy Rector)
Mr Leo Walsh (1948-68) (Maths)
Mr Clifford Westcott (1975-81) (PT Music)



Mr L Walsh, Sr Pauline, Sr Eugenius, Sr Paul Mary, Mr E Mellan, Canon Walker

Book Clubs 1990

The English Department organises two Book Clubs - Chip and Scene. These are branches of the Scholastic Book Club. Order forms for Chip are available monthly, while those for Scene are issued quarterly.

Books cover a wide range of topics, and are sold more cheaply than the publishers' list prices.

Reading for pleasure is a vital element in the development of any child's skills in English. Order forms are available from Mrs Mitchell and the librarian.



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More Former Pupils

PATRICIA Kelly (now Russell) (Dux 1964) writes "I have now been married for 15 years and have five children; I have lived in Linlithgow since Peter and I were married. I went back to work three years ago. When I went back, I went into local government posts in West Lothian, then Stirling. For almost two years, until September, I was co-ordinator at Stirling Women's Technology Centre which is a training centre for women in computer programming. Earlier this year I applied to the Civil Service and am now head of a branch in Local Government Finance Division.

Although I had been connected with local government before it is pure coincidence that I have landed in this post. It is quite different from anything I have done before and, for the first time in a long time, I am having to think seriously about numbers."

(Fr) PAUL MURPHY, S.C.J., describes his years at St Michael's as "enjoyable and very fulfilling. I knew what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be a priest with the community known as the Sacred Heart Fathers. I had already been with them for five years at Smithstone House in Kilwinning, which was the junior house, and when I left St Michael's and Smithstone I went down to the North-East of England to do my studies for the priesthood. I was ordained in 1982 and since then have been in parishes in Dublin and Manchester and also in full-time youth work in a centre we run near Liverpool. Now I find myself back in Smithstone. It is no longer a junior house but is now a house of prayer and spirituality. And once again I find that life is enjoyable and very fulfilling.

GEORGE McGRATTAN was recently appointed Principal Teacher of Computing at Garnock Academy. His wife, ANNE GIFFNEY, is Home Visiting Teacher for pre-school children with Special Needs in the Irvine area.

MARK PENTLETON (Dux Medallist in 1989) records that "One of the highlights of my time at St Michael's was the opportunity to work with professional composer Dr James MacMillan on the Strathclyde Concerto Project, as one of my main interests is music. I was also involved in the publication of a school magazine in French, Spanish and Italian and I am presently studying for an Honours degree in French and Hispanic Studies at Glasgow University. Next year will be spent in France as an English Language Assistant and I am very much looking forward to this experience."

MARY E BOURKE (later Hunter, now Mitchell) (1954-57) returned to St Michael's as a teacher and is now living in Australia. "I am still the proud

possessor of the Dress Stewart travelling rug given to me as a farewell present by the staff. It was a cultural shock coming to Australia where I had to face two terms before the summer (Christmas) holidays after having almost completed a school year in the U.K.. My first day was most trying as I could not understand the Australian accents of my students and they found it difficult to understand my Scottish accent." She has taught all sorts of subjects and reports that "Life down under is good."

PETER MAGEE (Dux 1975, now in the Vatican Diplomatic Service) spent seven years at the Scots College in Rome, two and a half years at St Teresa's in Dumfries, gained a doctorate in Canon Law in Rome, and has spent over two years in El Salvador. He sent us his thoughts on the "thickening plot" of his life - this is printed in the supplement enclosed with this magazine.

SARAH McQUADE was a pupil at St Michael's from 1934-40. Her vivid recollections of life at St Michael's before the great fire of 1939 are printed in the supplement.

CAROL McLAUGHLAN is now the school librarian at Garnock Academy. Her husband BRIAN MURPHY is a bus driver with A1 Buses Ardrossan. His brother COLIN is a successful chartered accountant in Edinburgh, and married to another C.A..

EILEEN REILLY (1964-70) graduated BSc (Hons) in Pharmacy, and is currently Dispensary Manager at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock. Mr P Reilly, the Chief Invigilator at SCE exams at St Michael's for many years is her uncle; Eileen writes: "Uncle Peter, as he became known by my fellow classmates, made his appearance at St. Michael's during April and May each year together with his merry band of invigilators. Prior to the start of the exams Uncle Peter would be teased mercilessly by my (double) cousins - the Timmons family - to check that he had looked out his "squeakiest" of shoes so that all could hear him approaching as he patrolled the lines of pupils busily writing. Thus giving them advance warning that all cheating must stop!"

CAROLINE MONAGLE was not allowed to take a leisure course in photography when at school ("Mr M— said it was for boys") but is now hoping to qualify as a professional photographer later this year. She has recently won Merits in the student category of the national Print Awards. A keen member of the Harbour Arts Centre, her highest-flying part was as the goddess Iris in Aristophanes' "Birds", entering from a hatch in the ceiling of the theatre.

Profile of Mr Maxwell

Mr Maxwell, Deputy Head, will have been with us for 17 years come the 11th May. He joined St Michael's in 1974, when he came from Girvan Academy to join us as Assistant Head Teacher and also a Business Studies teacher. He now concentrates on being an economics teacher.

The interests which he most enjoys are cricket, being a Kilmarnock supporter and walking, especially hill climbing. He also likes snooker and swimming, but finds he's not terribly good at these things. His ambitions are to be a professional economist or a newsreader. If he was younger he would have liked to become a professional cricketer.

Within the atmosphere of the school he finds that it is friendly, calm and that each and every pupil and staff have a good understanding towards each other. Over the years he has found that the school building has changed tremendously because of the extension - he feels that there is more room now. He thinks the dining hall is always the best place to be

because it is very calm and relaxing because everyone is talking and laughing. There never seems to be any aggression between the pupils and the staff.

He feels that the pupils are a little less obedient, but does not feel that this is to do with the population of the school. He finds he is always very busy with many things to do around and about the school.

The things he most enjoyed about the school in his early years as Deputy Head were the Burns Suppers, Sports Days and the annual school trips - "very enjoyable and interesting".

Mr Maxwell would like to retire in maybe another six years and would not really wish another job. He has been to many schools and feels that he would like to end his career at St Michael's.

Claire Collins 404

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Life after Latin

As I sat in the classrooms of "old" St Michael's, little did I know what lay in store for me. A chance remark from my Latin teacher suggested a career in Personnel Management. After University, life began to open up. I got into the career I wanted after competing with three Army majors to get onto the course. All looked rosy! Alas! I was prematurely "retired" 5 years later just before my first child was born. Life was to change. For the weekly trip to the Toddlers group, I clutched two small children, a buggy and a shopping bag. Did my time at school prepare me for the many facets of child-rearing? I soon got an unrequested part-time job answering the telephone to my husband's patients. Some patients needed help after falling out of taxis or taking ill after eating Chinese meals. Routine calls became interspersed with life-threatening emergencies, with the children shouting in my ear as I tried to act in a professional way.

Another two children arrived. The nappy changing, feeding and Playgroups continued. I was growing older and I had an unfulfilled ambition. During my time at St Michael's I had always regretted I had not taken Woodwork and Metalwork and also Home Economics which seemed shrouded in wonder. Behind the doors of the Technical Department, I occasionally saw a large engineering machine which whetted the appetite. The mythical age of 40 was approaching and before time ran out I returned to school and sat SCE exams in Home Economics, Woodwork and Metalwork and did very well. I had never been particularly sporty at school but around the same time, on a whirl, I took up jogging. I see my former gym teacher from time to time and know she will not recognise the figure pounding the streets in all weathers.

Life has turned full circle. My daughter is at Secondary School and I am giving her help to choose her subjects. I wonder what school life and her future career have in store for her? I am now in a position to resume my career and put what I learned at school to good use. What of the future generation? I have always tried to pass on the benefits of my accumulated wisdom to the children but I have a sneaking suspicion that they find more interest in "Neighbours" than in what I try to teach them! **Patricia Milligan (nee Reilly)**

SCOTCH EGGS AND RAW PASTRY

As a pupil in 3A (1966) I waved farewell to Mr McCutcheon's Latin class with all those conjugations and declensions and I joined Mrs Barkey's Home Management class (- I was keen to become a Dietitian at the time!). I soon came to realise the orderly class as run by 'Big Jim' could not compare with this very practical subject I had taken up.

The class consisted of a demonstration followed by our own attempt. Mrs Barkey would from time to time be called away while the demonstration was in progress - this was an ideal opportunity for members of the class to sabotage her efforts (- I hasten to add that I never did). Baking powder, salt and sugar would be added to the most inappropriate recipe. Empire biscuits would come out of the oven the size of scones - much to Mrs B's horror - well, now she knows!

Scotch eggs as made by Patricia Reid came complete with egg shell. On discovering this she decided the best thing to do was to allow them to cool on the window ledge. Alas they were last seen whizzing past Miss Whiston's window and into the quadrangle.

Linda Walker could beat egg whites like no other - but disaster was round the corner for her too, when her light meringue became well and truly welded to the roof of the oven.

Beef olives were a popular dish until Annette Bunton's attempt was displayed - blackened, complete with charcoal string bows!

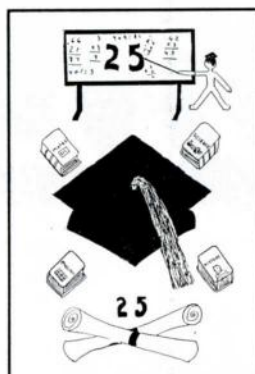
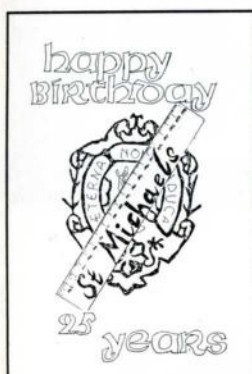
Exams were marked very carefully and on completion of the dish we had to leave the room. We were well aware that one aspect was to examine the contents of the bin - we lost marks for waste of ingredients. As a result any excess - and it was usually pastry, had to be kept to a minimum. Efforts to get rid of it included - eating it - raw! - stuffing it down the sink (no wonder they were frequently blocked!) or into your large apron pocket.

Mrs B's skill would also be called upon when special guests were to be entertained. On one such occasion we didn't think much to her choice of menu for Bishop McGee as we watched a large ox's tongue being cooked!

Eileen M. Reilly

Cover design competition

The magazine cover is by Stephen Russell (102). The four runners-up were Elaine McKeating (205), Frances McCourt (103), John Fitzsimmons (205) and Pauline Moore (204). Their designs are shown here in that order.



To be continued

At last! The articles and photos are all gathered in; the task of sub-editing and page layout and liaison with the printer is complete; from an idea of six months ago, we, under Mrs. Merrick's chairmanship, have reached the end.

There are inevitably many omissions; but this is a commemorative magazine, not a history book.

We specially thank all advertisers, and ask you to show your thanks by supporting them in return.

Not mentioned elsewhere are my S5 Computing class, including Dorothy

Bonnar, Melanie McFarlane and Sharon McNairney, for typing and Jennifer McDaid, our layout specialist at the printer's.

This is not really the end. Any school is a dynamic unit of many pupils and staff over many years, so, as St. Michael's moves on to newer challenges and opportunities, we prefer "To be Continued . . ."

I.J. Dickson, PT Classics

(answerable for sub-editing, page arrangement and liaison with printer)

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