



Stonehouse Primary School

'Enabling all to achieve success'

Stonehouse Heritage Group
All Correspondence To 4-5 The Cross
Stonehouse Larkhall ML9 3LQ
Charity Number SC020826



STONEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATION 1881-2011



1888



1946?



1945?



1946?

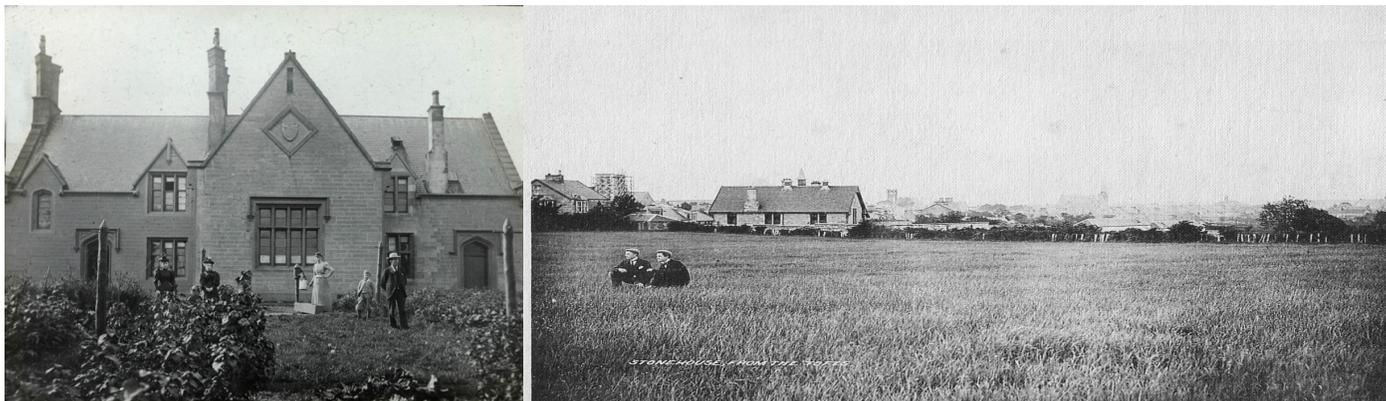


1964

Stonehouse Primary School History

According to Robert Naismith's book on Stonehouse, the first purpose built school in Stonehouse opened in 1781 in King Street.

The new parish school, built in 1853, was located 'a short distance from old one', (in Townhead Street?). It was enlarged in 1870 and 'enclosed with a neat wall'. A new house for the headmaster was also built near the Free Manse (in Hill Road?) called Sauchrie Cottage. Naismith (1895) pp82-85



The following covers the period from 1881 until 1924:

The Free Church School in Hill Road (1851 – 1881) was leased to the Stonehouse School Board for one year in 1881, under the name of Hill Academy, while Townhead Street School was under construction. On 9th January 1882 Townhead Public School was opened by the School Board.



Townhead School Opening Ceremony 1912

The Coronation of George V
Took place on 22nd June, 1911. Medals/brooches were given to boys/girls. Along with two bands, they marched to a field near the

Avon for sports refreshments and entertainment.

After the miner's strike was over work resumed on the new part of Townhead School. On 2nd September, 1912 the reconstructed school was opened by a group of dignitaries (see above). A gold key was presented to Mr. Naismith by the Architects, Measurers and Contractors.

Mr. Leggate, the Headmaster was called up, and then returned after the end of the First World War. Mr. A. McIntosh filled in as Headmaster at various times until he finally retired age 70.

Taken from Jean Leishman's articles published in April/May 1973 in the Stonehouse/Larkhall Gazette



PUPIL STRIKE

On the 11th of October 1889 Mr J.B. Paterson clerk called this morning. A regular epidemic of strikes among School children, has been spreading all over the

country this week, and yesterday a few of our boys attempted to organize one here, but fortunately they failed to do so.

The Schools History.

During the 1930's and indeed into the late 1940's, many children were still without footwear. For this reason a 'boot fund' was established to provide footwear for all children.

Attendances at the schools were affected all year round by various ailments as vaccinations were not as common as they are today, thus diseases such as measles, mumps, flu, diphtheria and scarlet fever were more prevalent.

During the winter these ailments took their toll, as did the weather which badly affected transport and road conditions.

In the summer, pupils were often granted absence for 'potato gathering' or to help with the harvest.

Until the late 1940's all Catholic and Protestant children mixed together at both Camnethan Street and Townhead Street schools.

During the Second World War many children from all over Glasgow, including Carntyne, and later Clydeside, were evacuated to Stonehouse and matched with appropriate families for the duration of their stay.

All of the initial intake (229 from St. Thomas's) were Catholic and used to being taught in separate schools in Glasgow. These children also brought with them their own teachers and a priest, who insisted they were taught separately.

The priest was surprised to find that in Stonehouse all children were taught together.

When the war concluded, the priest then pursued having Catholic children transferred to St. Mary's in Larkhall and St. Patrick's in Strathaven, where today the majority of our Catholic children are taught. Many children could not settle into their new surroundings and were either redeployed or returned to Glasgow.

During the war years Alexander Anderson was headmaster of Camnethan Street School and Robert Leggate, a former pupil of his, was the headmaster of Townhead School.

Camnethan Street School, more affectionately known as the 'Dominie' (Scots for school master) was closed in 1947 with the children being transferred to Townhead School. It was briefly opened on occasion while renovations took place to Townhead School in 1950/51 and as a dinner hall and overflow of classes from Townhead School. In 1956 Camnethan Street school was sold to the Congregational Church and demolished in March 1995.

It wasn't until June of 1953 that both Camnethan Street School and Greenside School removed all its pupils to Townhead School to be taught under one roof. Today classes of 30 are regarded as large, yet in the 1950's, classes of over 50 were not uncommon. In 1958, there were four classes of such size, with pupils of all ages still being taught together. In 1958 Townhead Street School had 530 pupils on the roll.



On 5th October, 1953 Townhead Street School was officially opened as Townhead Street Junior Secondary School.

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2nd June, 1953, which coincided with the crowning of the gala queen during Stonehouse Gala Day. The local ceremony was delayed for twenty minutes so that people could watch the 'real thing' take place on the television. This was the first coronation to be shown on TV. 1953 was also the year that the summit of Everest was reached by Hilary and Tensing. It was also the year that post WWII rationing finally came to an end. Coronation mugs and other memorabilia were given to all school children to commemorate the event.

In 1965 the school ceased to be a Junior Secondary with all 12+ pupil now required to attend Larkhall Academy. The school then came to be known as Stonehouse Primary School.

The Borland Medal/Dux

On the 6th June, 1924 the Headmaster of Townhead Primary School, Mr. A. McIntosh, wrote in his diary "I have received word from the Authority that a Gold Medal (from money left by the late Dr. Borland, Yarrow) is to be awarded to the Dux Scholar" i.e. the best scholar in the Senior year.

The first medal was awarded to Robert Mitchell in 1924. This practice continued each year until 1936 when the rising price of gold made this practice difficult to continue so a watch or other prize was awarded instead until 1939 when a gold medal was again awarded during the war years until 1944.

In 1946 it again became difficult to obtain a gold medal so War Savings Certificates were awarded in 1945/6. A prize was awarded each year until 1950 after which the practice ceased (or at least went unrecorded). It was revived in 1960, until 1967 then again discontinued between 1968 and 1980.

The Borland Medal prize was revived again in 1981, until 1984 then again no record between 1985 and 1992. The practice was revived again by Mrs. McKenzie, the Head teacher, in 1993 as the Borland Prize for Endeavour. This continued until 1996 and then nothing further is known.



Timeline

18th Century

In 1701 there were three subscription schools in Stonehouse Parish; one at Kittymuir, one at Tweedieside, and one at an unknown location within the village.

The first purpose built school in Stonehouse was built at King Street in 1781.

19th Century

There were three Education Acts enacted; 1803 Act, 1861 Act and the important 1872 act under which responsibility for education passed from the Church to the State with the formation of School Boards and compulsory schooling for all 5 to 13 year olds.

In 1836 there were five schools in Stonehouse (2 of them Subscription schools) with around 300 scholars.

In 1851 Mr. Hamilton of Longridge Farm paid for the Free Church school that was located in Hill Road. The building was destroyed by fire in 1936.

In 1883 there were three schools in Stonehouse with 435 scholars.

In 1881 Stonehouse School was built at the corner of Townhead Street and Sidehead Road and opened in 1882.

20th Century

1953 Townhead Street Junior Secondary School officially opened on the site of Townhead Primary

1965? The school was re-named Stonehouse Primary School

In 1979 Newfield Primary School became the second school in Stonehouse.

21st Century

2010/11 Newfield Primary School rebuilt

2011/12 Stonehouse Primary School rebuilt