

The Bell Rings Across The Green

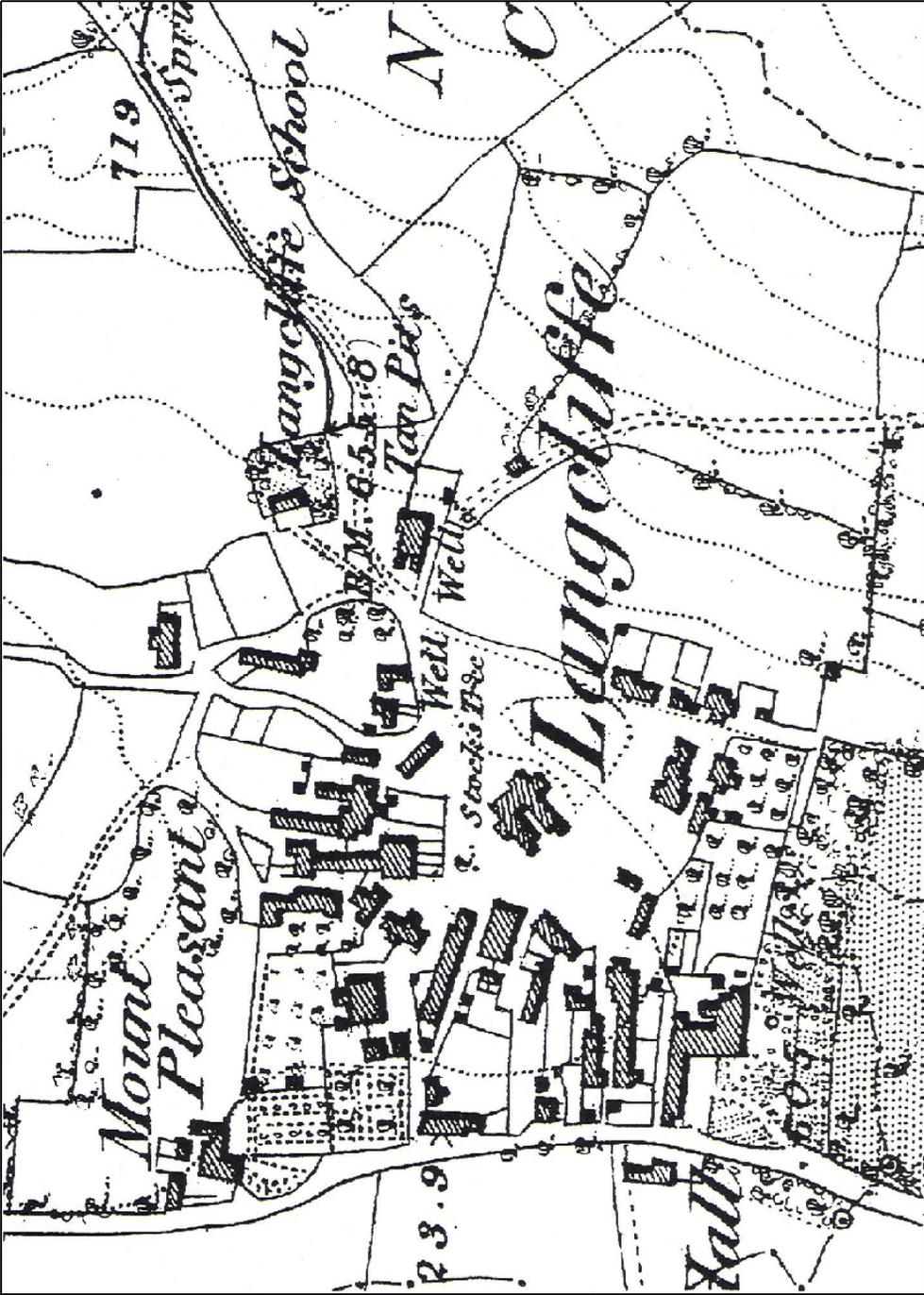
A history of Langcliffe School with
early photographs

Kate Croll

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and Langcliffe School

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REQUEST

We ask anyone with further information and names of people on photographs to contact the Langcliffe History Group via Langcliffe Post Office.

ARCHIVE SOURCES

The National Archives: ED 21/44134 (1920 - 1934), ED 21/64891 (1938) and ED 49/9135 (1860 - 1907)

North Yorkshire County Record Office: S/LAC (1904 - 1971)

FOREWORD

During the past year when the very existence of our village school was under threat, teachers, governors and past pupils decided to gather together articles and photographs of the school to make an historical record should the worst happen. They enlisted the help of the Langcliffe Village History Group and Friends of Langcliffe School in this task, fearing that there might be no permanent memento for past pupils should the school bell toll for the last time.

So it is in a spirit of celebration and relief that we have completed this book, knowing that for the foreseeable future the school bell will ring out across the village green each morning. With the continuing loyal support of the local community, we trust that the school may flourish into the next generation.

We are indebted to the following for articles, information and photographs:-

Past and present Heads of Langcliffe School, Staff, Governors, Friends of Langcliffe School, Secretary Rachel Angus and past and present pupils.

Geoffrey Benson, Mrs Mary Atkin (née Bland), Kate and David Croll, Beth Graham and Jean and Ken Jelley. Jean Lavelle for the drawing of the Bell.

The Langcliffe History Group (Helen Atkinson, Kate Croll, Chris and Nancy Ellis, Jean Lavelle, Mary and Mike Slater, Helene Wiggin) for their enthusiasm and hard work in keeping the deadline in sight.

Helene Wiggin

September 2006

Langcliffe
Settle
N. Yorkshire

THE BELL RINGS

Every day we hear the bell ring but only the year fives are allowed to ring it so I am looking forward to being a year five.

Lauren Hill

**HEADTEACHERS OF LANGCLIFFE SCHOOL
FROM 1863**

1863	Mary Chambers
1871	Sybylla Tennant
1875	S. M. Palin
1881	Samuel Woolstencroft (died suddenly)
1898	Mary Agnes Procter (temp.)
1898	D. Woodhead
1899	George Richmond
1900	Alexander Mack
1901	M. E. Woodhead
1902	H. Woodhead
1911	Claude D. Bennett (killed in action 1917)
1914	Mary M. Brennand (temp.)
1920	Graham Vevers
1933	Thomas A. Lupton (temp.)
1934	H.H. Bland
1947	M.R.Newell (temp.)
1947	Edith E. Harris
1962	Emily J. Gregory
1965	A. Hays (temp.)
1966	Brian Semple
1969 – 70	John P. Watson (B. Semple on secondment)
1975	Eva Parsons (temp.)
1975	David Wall
1978	Sheila Sheard
1980	Miss Leadbetter (temp.)
1981	Anne Clements
1983	David Atkinson (temp.)
1984	Pearl Bowker (temp.)
1984	Hilary Foster
2003	Jill Wilson
2006	Pearl Bowker

Letter from Wm Mackesy, Incumbent of Langcliffe, 1860

(reproduced with permission of The National Archives ED49/9135)

RECEIVED
 Langcliffe Parsonage
 6840/16A
 Settle
 Yorkshire
 RECEIVED
 MAY 30
 1860
 Sir
 Having applied to
 the Com: of Council on
 Education for a grant to
 repair our school. after
 much correspondence I have
 been referred by them to
 the Charity Commissioners
 in order to have trustees
 appointed & the school

placed under proper management
 the school is built on the
 Waste the Clergyman of
 the parish has always had
 or at least for 20 yrs or more
 the sole management. there
 is no trust deed & the only
 title is the length of time
 it has been in the possession
 of the Church. the proprietors
 are their own Lords and
 are satisfied that things sd
 remain as they are, nor do
 I think they wd if it were

necessary to consult them
 give any formal possession
 altho they acknowledge the
 rights now existing. The
 Com: of Council think I
 had better apply for a
 scheme of management
 wh I have no objection to
 provided the management
 be vested in the Church & that
 there be no expense attending
 it. they beg me to state
 that the Com: Commissioners
 have had with them wh

will be at the service of the
 Commissioners - perhaps you
 wd kindly inform me wh
 steps I must take to carry
 out their wishes & whether
 I sh be at any or wh expense
 in doing so -
 I beg to remain
 Sir
 Yr obedient st
 Wm P Mackesy
 Incb: of Langcliffe
 Settle
 Yorks

[Stamped:- RECEIVED MAY 30 1860]

Langcliffe Parsonage, Settle, Yorkshire

Sir:
 Having applied to the Com: of Council on Education in order to have trustees appointed & the school placed under proper management. The school is built on the Waste the Clergyman of the parish has always had or at least for 20 yrs or more the sole management. There is no trust deed & the only title is the length of time it has been in the possession of the Church. The proprietors are their own Lords and are satisfied that things sd remain as they are, nor do I think they wd, if it were necessary to consult them give any formal possession altho they acknowledge the rights now existing. The Com: of Council thinks I had better apply for a scheme of management wh I have no objection to provided the management be vested in the Church & that there be no expense attending it. They beg me to state that the correspondence I have had with them wi(?) will be at the service of the Commissioners - perhaps you wd kindly inform me wh steps I must take to carry out their wishes and whether I sh be at any or wh expense in doing so,

I beg to remain Sir Yr obedient st Wm. P. Mackesy Incb: of Langcliffe Settle, Yorks

LANGCLIFFE SCHOOL

The school at Langcliffe has been called variously Langcliffe National School, Langcliffe Provided School, Langcliffe Council School, Langcliffe County Primary School and finally Langcliffe Community Primary School, the different names reflecting the many changes which have occurred throughout the history of education.

Unfortunately there appear to be no records of the building and opening of Langcliffe School. A document dated 1894 mentions an old account book, then in possession of the trustees of the school, from which it appears that the school was built by public subscription probably on part of the village green in or about the year 1825. An entry from 1954 in Log Book 3 maintains that the school was opened on 12th May 1834. The school bell has the date 1838 inscribed on it, so the school was clearly established by this time.

The earliest known document relating to the school is a letter in The National Archives at Kew. It is stamped as received on 30th May 1860. It was written by William Mackesy, the vicar of Langcliffe. It forms part of much correspondence undertaken by the vicar in order to obtain a grant to repair the school. In the letter he states that the school had been built on the Waste and that the vicar had for the past 20 years or so, been the only manager of the school. He also states that there was no trust deed. Unfortunately there are no more documents from this correspondence, so we do not know if the money was granted to do the repair work.

Our earliest information on school teaching comes from the School Log Book which begins on 3rd August 1863, written by the Head Teacher, Mary Chambers. She had four classes and a pupil teacher, Sybilla Tennant. Miss Perfect assisted with the teaching of Needlework and the Rev. Mackesy regularly took lessons.

For the remainder of the 19th century, Log Book 1 is our only source. Reading through the beautifully scripted, yellowing pages, an idea of school life gradually emerges. It is often very frustrating. Something is mentioned and then never referred to again.

From the age of 9 or 10, children could work part time in the mill, the other half of the day at school. The mill owners had to make sure that each child had attended school for the prescribed number of hours and so there are frequent references to "*the mill book being made up and returned to the mill*". At 13 or 14 they left school to work full time. Some of the "*big half-time boys*" could be a problem and this is acknowledged by Her Majesty's Inspectors when they visited the school each year.

Scripture was very important, the classes being taken by the Vicar. The Rev. Travers McIntire replaced the Rev. Mackesy in 1864 and he was a daily visitor, often accompanied by his wife, sometimes by his daughter and son. He taught the children their Catechism, the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Hymns and songs were learnt each

week and on saints' days the children attended church. Other lessons included reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, dictation, composition, history, geography, needlework and object lessons. The children worked on slates and were examined regularly. The Mistress, Miss Chambers must have worked very hard. She was responsible for the Day School and also for the Night School (for scholars over 13) which seems to have taken place from October and throughout the winter. She also taught the pupil teachers, of whom there were usually two and a monitor. Their lessons were from 6.40 until 8.00 a.m. in the summer months but from 4 until 5 p.m. in the winter. The H.M.I. reports were very complimentary. They wrote of her "*good sense and great kindness*" and that "*the Mistress worked with diligence and skill*".

In 1871 Miss Chambers resigned and was replaced by Miss Sybilla Tennant. From this time children were admitted aged as young as three years old. The Misses Perfect and Miss Sedgewick were frequent visitors and often assisted with reading or needlework. Miss Tennant resigned in 1875 and Miss S.M. Palin was appointed in her place.

It is from this time that things started to go horribly wrong. More and more children were admitted to the school from different parts of the country as more mill workers moved into Langcliffe. Often these children could not read, write or say their letters. It would seem from the Inspectors' reports that Miss Palin was not strict enough. Still more children were admitted – unfortunately, there is no mention at this time of the number on roll, but on 14th March 1876 "*the numbers were higher this afternoon, there being 97 present*". The school must have been bursting at the seams and the report of 1877 was very critical of the accommodation, the offices [toilets] and the supply of desks and books. The report also states that the "*teaching of arithmetic is uniformly bad*" and a reduction of one tenth was made to the grant for "*faults of instruction in Arithmetic.*" (Following the Revised Code of 1860, a grant was paid by the Government for average attendance and performance in examinations).

Not surprisingly, this was all too much for Miss Palin. She was absent for a week with a severe cold. Then she "*went home for rest and change of air.*" (The underlinings are hers). Six weeks later she was able to return to school. The pupil teachers had been left in charge with the Rev. McIntire coming to assist each day.

At the end of November 1878, school was held in the Reading Room at the mill, while building work was carried out – "*alterations and additions and a heating apparatus put up*". In April 1880 a gallery was put up in the infants' class.

Despite these improvements to the building, matters were to get worse for Miss Palin. The Vicar, who had clearly been such a support to her, retired and was replaced by a very different man, the Rev. Samuel Sandberg.

There were problems very soon after his arrival in November 1880. He seems to have thought that he was the sole manager of the school. He was wrong in this (the Rev. McIntire

had to swear an affidavit that Hector Christie and Wm. George Perfect were managers too), but in fairness it has to be said that Hector Christie had only visited a very few times and George Perfect not at all, according to the Log Book.

In May 1881, Miss Palin had given the registers and schedules to Hector Christie (the mill owner). On 14th May the Rev. Sandberg visited the school and demanded these documents. *"On hearing they were not in my possession, he threatened to stop the examination which was to take place on the 27th unless I went to the mill and brought them to him. He promised to remain in school during my absence, but on my return the pupil teacher told me he had gone and taken the Log Book and the keys to the school doors"*. Mr Sandberg then attempted to lock the managers out of the school. After several requests the Log Book was returned to Miss Palin on 21st June and she was able to update it. The Rev. Sandberg did not visit the school again and he was taken to court by Hector Christie and George Perfect, who did from now on visit regularly.

When the school closed for the midsummer holidays on 9th July, Miss Palin resigned, but did agree to stay on when school returned on 9th August until 6th September when a new Master took charge of the school – this was Samuel Woolstencroft. He moved from Rochdale with his wife, Annie, who was employed at the school as seamstress, and they lived in St John's Row.

In January 1881 the managers decided to raise the fees paid by the children. Full-timers now paid 3d a week instead of 2½d and half-timers paid 2d instead of 1½d a week. (There were 12d in 1 shilling and that is equivalent to 5p.) In 1882 Thomas Brayshaw joined the managers. When the children were absent, the Attendance Officer visited. There are several examples of parents being fined 5s for the non-attendance of each of their children.

Throughout the 1880's and 1890's the Inspectors continued to be very critical of the school. Every year they recommended the appointment of an adult certificated teacher for the infants, pointing out that the Master would be helped if *"relieved of the instruction of the infants"*, but nothing was done. Numbers continued to rise. In November 1886 there were 196 children on roll. In the report of that year, the Inspectors suggested that *"considering the special difficulties of this school, it would be wiser to attempt fewer subjects. Discipline is only fair. The infants are much neglected and in a backward condition"*.

Mention was made of the school being flooded several times due to the drain being blocked in the field behind the school. This was to be a recurring problem throughout the school's history. On these days the school was closed. There were epidemics of measles and scarlet fever which closed the school for weeks at a time. The staff suffered from neuralgia, sore throats and colds. On 23rd November 1893 an Inspector called without warning and found *"the schoolroom very cold and the children shivering. The master was ill with a bad cold. The warming of the school should be improved"*. Nothing was apparently done.

1898 43

Jan 19th Examined the School Register. Found same to be correctly Entered.
 Wm. Brayshaw. Manager
 .. 25 Spencer clearing drain from Closets.
 .. 31st Master absent from duties, suffering
 Feb 7th I. Mary Agnes Procter, took temporary charge of this school. The Master, James Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening, Feb. 6th from pneumonia. The school the previous week had been in charge of the Assistant Mistress.
 8th Miss Perfect visited the school.
 9th School closed, as it was the day appointed for the funeral of the Master. Notice could not possibly be given to H. M. S. as it was only decided to do so the evening of the 8th Feb.
 10th Miss Ratcliffe visited the Infants.
 11th Miss Perfect visited the Infants & took class I in Reading.

Extract from Log Book 1, February 1898

The reports got worse. In 1892 "*as the infants are so badly taught and managed, I am compelled to declare this department as inefficient under Article 86 and to recommend the withdrawing of grants under Articles 98 and 98b. The situation calls for determined interference on the part of the managers*". In 1896 two pupil teachers were caught giving "*surreptitious aid*" to children during an examination. "*They should be warned that this is a serious offence against the moral tone of the school*". We can only imagine their desperation. The Inspectors suggested various improvements to the school building – a porch for the children's outer garments, more desks in the gallery and better lighting for the main room.

The picture painted by the Log Book is a desperate one at this time. Why were none of the Inspectors' recommendations acted upon? It must have been incredibly difficult for Mr Woolstencroft trying to cope with large numbers of children aged from 3 to 14 with huge variations in their abilities and with a succession of pupil teachers and monitors, in a cold, damp building. And what of the children? It must have been a cheerless experience.

This terrible chapter in the school's story was brought to an end with these two entries in 1898.

31st January (Written in a very shaky hand) "*Master absent from duties, suffering.*

7th February *I, Mary Agnes Proctor took temporary charge of this school. The Master Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening from pneumonia*". The school was closed on the day of his funeral. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Langcliffe Churchyard. He was 59 years old.

His death must have shocked the managers into action. They appointed a new master and two assistant certificated mistresses. The H.M.I. report for 1899 stated "*A very marked and gratifying improvement*". During the summer holidays of 1900, the large room was much improved – the roof whitewashed, walls coloured and wainscoted to a height of 4 ft. New books and apparatus were purchased together with 24 new dual desks. The gallery in the infants' room had proved problematical and so was removed and the following year a piano was bought with help from Miss Dawson. An evening of Prizegiving was held for both day and night scholars and an afternoon visit to Morecambe for the Perfect Attenders.

Entering the 20th century, there are other sources available – newspaper articles, parish magazines, photographs and of course the memories of old scholars.

On 1st April 1904, the school came under the control of the West Riding County Council in accordance with the Education Act of 1902. Fees were abolished and grants were paid to the school – 22 shillings for Standards 1-7 and 13 shillings for infants. (There were 20 shillings in a pound). The classes were known as standards. The school building was handed over to the WRCC who paid an annual rent of £13 to the trustees of the school. In The National Archives there is a copy of the Agreement between the Managers (The Reverend Crabtree, Hector Christie, Thomas Brayshaw, William Perfect, William Hunter and John Longmire) and the County Council dated 31st December 1906. Included in the schedule is a list of the

Second Part - Furniture

1 Oil Tank	1 Teachers Desk (very old and poor)
4 Lamps (one broken and shades)	1 Piano with wax cover
3 Wire Mats	1 Clock
6 Blackboards	79 Plants in pots
4 Cases	1 Large framed picture
4 Cupboards (in addition property of Sunday School)	1 Watering can
114 Dual Desks	65 Sans Dumb Bells
10 Long Desks 9ft x 1ft with loose seats	2 Tables (very old and poor)
7 Forms	1 Maypole
7 Chairs	1 Curtain and rod (iron)
1 Partition (in three parts)	1 Swing (for Infants)
1 Masters Desk and Platform	5 doz Staves for Infants Gull
	2 Thermometers

Inventory of furniture from the agreement of 1906



Produce from the school garden c1911



Is this Annie Yeadon?

furniture. An earlier letter, dated 23rd October 1905 from the Reverend Crabtree to the Secretary of the Board of Education, concerns the make-up of the Trustees and Managers.

The staff consisted of Henry Woodhead, three assistant mistresses – Miss A. Yeadon, Miss M. Jackson and Miss M. Proctor, two pupil teachers – Miss O. Higginson and Miss G. Hayes and a monitor, N. Howson. There were 112 children on roll. Mr Woodhead had been appointed headmaster in 1902. His family believe that he was aged only 21 at that time – the youngest headmaster in the country. During this first decade, several improvements were made to the building. Moveable screens were put in the main room to separate the classes (these were later made into a permanent partition), a new porch was built with drinking water and sinks, new windows were put into the main room to make it much lighter and airier, gas lighting was installed and the playground surface improved. Two young ladies were appointed who were to have a tremendous influence on the school and its pupils – Miss Mary Brennand came in 1905 as an assistant teacher and Miss F. May Graham in 1907 as a pupil teacher.

Medical inspections began at this time. They were to take place when the child started school, at ages 7, 10 and before they left. An article in the Parish Magazine of January 1909 was clearly designed to quell parental fears. "*Let it be clearly understood that the examination is of a private character. Only the medical officer, parent, teacher and child are present*".

Cookery and Gardening began for the older children. In January 1905, 15 girls went to Settle for cookery classes. From the spring of 1908, the school rented a garden, part of the allotments along Howsons Lane. The boys kept careful diaries, the first crop – radishes, was harvested that June. It must have been a good year for vegetables because on 8th September a dinner was held in school for all the pupils. All the vegetables had been grown by the boys and cooked by the girls. The garden continued to be cultivated by the school until 1945.

For the first time mention is made of educational walks to local attractions. Visits further afield too became the norm. Mr Woodhead took 13 of the older children to Bradford, and they continued to Leeds by tram. Here they visited the Town Hall, Art Gallery and Museum where they saw mummies from Egypt. At Arnold & Son Works they saw all kinds of school materials being made (the log book was produced there!) and then they were able to spend their pocket money in the shops. Several of the children had never seen a town before or ridden in a tram. The Parish Magazine records "*They were amazed by the forest of tall chimneys.*" In 1909 twenty scholars visited Manchester, travelling by train from Hellifield. A glimpse of the wider world came from the use of lantern slides or magic lantern. Mr Woodhead wrote in the log "*took St. 2 upwards for a sail around England by the aid of lantern slides*". Later they "*took a stroll in the Yorkshire Dales*". Also visited in this way were India, Congoland, the North Pole and Switzerland. Hard to imagine the impact now in our days of television and foreign travel, but it must have been really exciting.

102

1911
Sept. 1st A. Claude Bennett, commenced duties here this morning as Headteacher.

No. present 119
No. on Register 126.

Mr. Crabtree (near) was in school till 9.30 & explained the Religious working & agreements of the School.

The scholars appear very bright & the discipline is exceedingly good.

5th Salary sheet received. Particulars

Mary M. Brennan	C.A.	£80.(-44)	£6.9.4.
Annie Yeaton	U.A.	£60	£5.
Florence M. Graham	U.A.	£45	£3.15.
C.D. Bennett	H.T.	£120(-51/9)	£9.14.2.
Mary E. Monk	Catechist	£12	£1.

Agreed
Circular 11 E (Teachers in Charge at Recreating)
& following organisation arranged:

Infants: Miss Graham every day
Girls: Miss Brennan & Miss Yeaton in charge alternate days.
Boys: Head C. whenever possible.
Bill to be rung at 10.55 & 8.10 by Top girl.

Extract from Log Book 2, September 1911

1912.
7 were arranged to give a spare room.
17 children of St F to M today went on an Educational Excursion to London when the following programme was gone through:-

6.5 a.m. Arrived St. Pancras
7.0 Through Covent Garden Market
7.30 Walk: Cleopatra's Needle, Embankment, Bank, Royal Exchange, Mansain House to London Bridge
9.15 Up the Monument
10.0 Tower Bridge
10.30 Round the Tower of London
11.30 St. Pauls
2 p.m. Houses of Parliament
2.45 Walk. St James Park (Boats), Buckingham Palace, The Mall, Trafalgar Square
3.15 Round Westminster Abbey.
4.30 " " The Zoo.
7.30 " " White City (Latin Br. Exhibition).
12.5 min. Left St. Pancras.

Diagrams are to be written about the things for which a local gentleman has offered

Extract from Log Book 2, September 1912

Most of the children stayed at school until they were 14. The Education Act of 1907 provided for the Free Place System. A limited number of scholarship places became available at Giggleswick School for the boys and at the High School in Settle (opened at this time) for the girls. Each year the log mentions children aged about 11, who were entered for the County Scholarship, as it was called. Mostly they were successful, but the numbers were very small.

Attendance was an important feature of school life at this time. Despite the continuing problem of diseases like measles, chicken-pox, mumps and scarlet fever which swept through the school (in 1910 the school closed for 4 weeks because of chicken-pox), the attendance record was very good. Each year an Attendance Banner was presented to the school with the highest attendance record. Langcliffe School was a frequent winner. Those children who did not miss a single day throughout the year were known as the Perfect Attenders. They were presented with a medal and then each successive year, a bar was added. These were given by Miss Dawson. In 1914 Leonard Bannister had not missed for 11 years!

On 23rd March 1911, Mr Woodhead and his staff held an Open Afternoon for the parents to come and see the children working, with demonstrations and work on display. A school library was opened at the same time.

At the end of August 1911, Henry Woodhead left Langcliffe to become Head of Woodlands School. His successor was a young teacher from Skipton – Claude Bennett. There were 126 children on roll and his staff was Mary Brennand (St.1 and class 1 of the infants), Annie Yeadon (Sts. 2&3), May Graham (infant classes 2&3) and Mary Monk was caretaker. Mr Bennett took Sts. 4-7. Together they continued the good work of the previous decade. The H.M.I. reports for this time are uniformly good. Full advantage was taken when the weather was good with outdoor lessons and nature rambles, but there were still problems with the heating system and it was often very cold in the three classrooms.

The annual concerts, begun by Mr Woodhead, were continued; the money raised went towards the summer outings. In 1912 the infant and St. 2 children performed "Witches Play" (a fairy play), whilst the older children sang an operetta in costume called "Princess Ju Ju". The following year it was "The Spirit of the Wood" and "Cinderella".

The educational outings took place after the "*Haytime*" holiday (as Mr Bennett picturesquely called the summer break). In 1912, Sts.1&2 visited Morecambe and Heysham Dock – "*16 children had never seen the sea before*". Sts.3 & 4 travelled to Liverpool and saw the Mauretania set sail. But Sts.5-7 went to LONDON! This was their itinerary. "*6.05 Arrived at St Pancras, 7.00 Through Covent Garden Market, 7.30 Walk to Cleopatra's Needle. Embankment, Bank, Royal Exchange, Mansion House to London Bridge. 9.15 Up the Monument. 10.00 Tower Bridge. 10.30. Round the Tower of London, 11.30 Round St Paul's, 2pm Round Houses of Parliament, 2.45 Walk through St James' Park, Buckingham Palace, The Mall, and Trafalgar Square. 2.15 Round Westminster Abbey, 4.30 Round the Zoo, 7.30 round White City. 12.05 Midnight Left St Pancras*". They must have been absolutely exhausted and



Programme for the 1914 concert



The Langcliffe Bantams 1914

I do hope they stopped to eat, but what a wonderful experience! They did it again the following year with variations to the itinerary – the afternoon was spent in South Kensington at the Natural History and Victoria & Albert Museums, ending with an entertainment at the Coliseum. Sts.1-4 went to Blackpool where they climbed the Tower for a lesson on the course of the lower River Ribble and had a car ride to Fleetwood to view the Docks.

Sadly, there were to be no more outings on this scale, because the following summer of 1914 saw the outbreak of the Great War. On 9th September 1914, the children of Sts.1-7 went out onto the Green to sing several songs for the recruits leaving for Active Service. Many of the soldiers were old scholars. Claude Bennett joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment as a Lieutenant (soon to be promoted to Captain) and left the school on 22nd September in the charge of Miss Brennand. He returned to the school on 8th December 1915, with his new wife to join in the Christmas celebrations. He was killed by an enemy sniper at Lagnicourt in France on 17th July 1917.

School continued much the same throughout the war years, with attendance sometimes low in the summer when the boys were needed for haymaking. The children 'did their bit' for the war effort. The December concerts continued but the money raised now went to the Princess Mary Fund to buy Christmas presents for the troops. In 1914 £7 was raised. The concert included the singing of patriotic songs, two musical plays – "The Smiling Geishas" and "The Chocolate Coons", but the high spot was the parade of the Langcliffe Bantams. These were the youngest children, dressed in khaki, who went through their drill and were so comical that they brought the house down. Eggs were collected and sent to London for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors – 330 on 18th August and 180 on 7th September 1915. Cigarettes and chocolates were sent to the Royal Engineers and three dozen sandbags were made in September 1915. Pound sales were held to raise money to buy wool so that comforts (scarves, mittens, socks and knee caps) could be knitted for the troops. On 30th November 1915, a large parcel was despatched to the men aboard the Battleship 'Victorious'. In 1916 a War Savings Association was formed, which by 1918 had raised £254 4s in war savings and £1,200 in war bonds.

In February 1915, the school was closed for three weeks because of measles, one of the little Bantams dying from measles and pneumonia. He was only 4. A little girl died from diphtheria in November 1917 and many children were sent to the Infectious Hospital after swabs were taken from their throats. Finally the school was closed in March 1918 and thoroughly disinfected and cleaned. All pens and pencils were burnt and the drains overhauled, but the disease continued its grip and the school was closed again in June for three weeks. During the week of the Armistice the school was again closed, this time because of influenza (Spanish flu?) for six weeks and again in March 1919 for three weeks. "*Vermin and dirty heads*" are the cause of great concern at this time and are mentioned frequently. Those children who were found to be thus afflicted were given a yellow card with instructions on what to do.

It wasn't all gloom and doom. On 14th June 1919, the children were given a picnic tea to celebrate the wedding of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dawson from the Hall. This was followed by games and a singing competition. There were more celebrations in September when the school was closed for a week and the village celebrated the Peace.

In December 1919, Miss Brennand ended her duties as temporary headteacher, but remained on the staff as an assistant teacher. Mr Graham Vevers became the new Headmaster with 104 children on roll. In July 1922, Annie Yeadon left and the classes were regrouped with the remaining three staff. At some point during the 1920's, the WRCC purchased a house in Craven Terrace, Settle for the headmaster. It remained the home of the headteachers of Langcliffe School until the 1970's. In 1934 Mr Vevers was replaced by Mr H.H.Bland who remained Headmaster at the school until 1947. His daughter, Mary Atkin, was a pupil during the 1930's and has compiled a fascinating file from her own memories and her father's diaries and records.

Throughout the twenties and thirties Armistice Day and Empire Day were always observed. On 11th November, the pupils would march to the War Memorial for the two minutes silence and hymn singing. They would have special lessons that day. Empire Day was on 24th May: again the children would march to the War Memorial with wreaths, flags and flowers. Patriotic songs were sung and in the afternoon there would be games and dancing on the Green, followed by a splendid tea. In 1923, the King and Queen's message was given on the gramophone.

Royal Weddings meant a day's holiday, as did General Elections as the school was used as a polling station. In 1927, a party of scholars and staff were able to visit the Eclipse Camp to look at the instruments used by the Greenwich Observatory. On 29th June a large party of children and staff left school at 4.40 a.m. for Winskill Crag to observe the total eclipse of the sun. The curious sundial on the playground was made about this time.

As well as Cookery, the older girls now had lessons in Housewifery and Laundry at the Girls' High School. They learnt how to wash and iron and how to clean windows and floors. Sewing and knitting were taught by Miss Graham.

The school day began when the bell rang at 9 a.m. Mrs Irene Bowker (née Marsden) recalls *"we had to line up in the yard and then march in order into the school main room where we always had prayers and a hymn. When I was about 10, as I had been having piano lessons, I was promoted to playing marches for the other scholars to march in to. I continued to do this until I left school at 14"*. Mr Albert Cheetham remembers when he was followed into school by the family pig. Miss Brennand gave him a long ribbon to act as a leash.

The school was closed several times because of illness during the 1920's. Children were often away for weeks at a time. If they were ill with scarlet fever or diphtheria, they were taken by horse and closed van to the Fever Hospital at Harden Bridge where they had to stay for about



Mr H. H. Bland, Headmaster 1934 – 1947

6 weeks. By the 1930's, the school dentist was a regular visitor as well as the school nurse. In 1935 there is the first mention of immunisation against diphtheria. In 1934, the children were able to pay ½d for 1/3 pint bottle of milk and then there was the COD LIVER OIL! Many former pupils remember this with a shudder. The large bottle was kept on a shelf in the kitchen and for ½d a week they were dosed with a teaspoonful of the stuff once a day at playtime. The spoons very quickly became greasy and oily. It was Rita Ellerington's (née Venn) job to scald the spoons after use – she can still remember the nauseating, fishy smell.

The health of the children cannot have been helped by the continuing problems of flooding and damp. In 1930 when a new heating plant was installed, it was discovered that the joists under the floor were rotten and decayed. New floors were laid throughout, but the flooding continued. Mrs Atkin remembers a waterfall down the steps into the back lobby. The middle room (now the cloakroom and toilets) and the boiler room were most frequently affected. Every time the boiler room was flooded, the boiler could not be lit and so of course the school was cold. This often meant that the school was closed, much to the delight of the pupils! In September 1936, water was found to be standing under the classroom floorboards and there were real problems with the drains and sewers from the outside privies. When the school approach was flooded, Mrs Kathleen Marklew (née Kitchener) remembers her father giving her a piggyback into school, because the water came up over her boots. You can hear the despair in Mr Bland's writing "*Conditions in school thoroughly unhealthy, damp and foul smelling. Reported again to Divisional Clerk – nothing has been done for 2 months*". The Clerk of Works and Sanitary Inspector did then visit and some work was done but to no avail. From 1936-39 there was yet more flooding, more work was done, but the school was flooded again in 1941 and 1944. In 1945, many parents asked Mr Bland to forward letters to the Department of Education, requesting permits to purchase wellingtons for the children. The outcome is not recorded!



The Paul Maze painting of Tower Bridge

In 1935, Mr Bland attended a lecture about "The New Art", given by the Art Inspector, Miss W. Biggs. She wanted teachers to try her ideas in school. Mr Bland was inspired by these ideas and so encouraged the children to paint from memory, using large sheets of paper, big brushes and poster paints. The results were very exciting and the paintings were sent off to Miss Biggs who exhibited them at the Exhibition of English Education in Oxford that summer. In October a letter was received from Miss Biggs "*informing us of the interest taken by Lord Halifax (then President of the Board of Education) and Sir Michael Sadler*". Later that week a letter

arrived from Sir Michael himself "*Lady Sadler and I were so much interested by the work done at your school and show in Oxford last August that we venture to ask your acceptance of one of our pictures from our collection.*" The painting duly arrived. It was an impressionistic sketch of Tower Bridge and the Pool by Paul Maze. The children's paintings were then exhibited at Leeds so they were able to go and see their own paintings. There were articles in the Daily Express and the Yorkshire Post. Fame at last! But what has happened to the painting? It is there in the background of class photos in the 1950's. Miss Townson remembers it but does not think it was there when she retired in 1973. Did it get muddled up with paintings lent to the school from the county pool at Wakefield? We shall probably never know, but it would be wonderful to find it again!

The 1930's saw many improvements. The new heating plant consisted of an enormous boiler and it was the job of the senior boys to shovel the coke into the boiler house on delivery day and then keep the boiler stoked. It heated 6-inch diameter pipes which ran around each classroom. Mr Clifford Fox remembers the times when the water in the pipes got so hot that the pipes started knocking and they had to turn on all the hot water taps in the wash basins. "*Pure steam*" came out until the water had cooled. The privies (a hole in a seat over a deep, smelly pit) dated back to 1882. They were in the back playground, one set for the boys and one for the girls, separated by a very high stone wall which also divided the playground. These privies were replaced by flush toilets and a proper sewage system installed. In 1939 the school was wired for electricity and the old gas lights were replaced with electric lights.

The Inspectors continued to visit, of course, but their reports were only given every 4 years. These, on the whole, praised the good work being done. In 1936 there were 77 children on roll. Discipline is one aspect of school life which many of the old scholars have commented on. There is still the record book of corporal punishment which dates from 1907 -1946. In the early days there were many entries each year. Gross carelessness would earn you two strokes with the cane, laziness during scripture – four strokes, playing truant – four strokes on each hand and four "*on the seat.*" Gradually over the years, the cane was used less and less and then only for serious misdemeanours.

Games were played on the Green, although the High School playing field does seem to have been used in the 1920's. Football and cricket were played by the boys, with the girls sometimes joining in with the cricket, but usually it was rounders with netball and stoolball played in front of the school. Earlier in the 1920's, Mrs Betty Sharrott (née Alcock) remembers sword dancing on the Green while Mrs Rowena O'Neil (née West) recalls having to run and dance around the Green in clogs! Mrs Maud Riley remembers team games in the school yard. In March 1942 an arrangement was made whereby the school was able to use the Institute for PT and Games on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 – 3.30. The rent was paid by WRCC Education Department.

During the 1930's and 40's there were several snowy winters. The children would take their homemade wooden sledges to school and at playtime and dinnertime would sledge down Cowside from the "second gate". Mrs Marklew remembers "*a time when compacted snow*

made it like a Cresta run and almost as dangerous. The Council sent snow cutters and cart to spread ashes on the road – we were all indignant and boys ran home for a brush to sweep the ashes off again. This wasn't well received and they had to stop it." Mrs Atkin recalls in 1940 being able to walk across the fields with her sledge, walking right over the field walls because the snow drifts were so deep. The children made snow houses by tunnelling into drifts. There were days when it was so bad that the school had to close.

The tradition of excellent concerts continued. Mrs Ellerington will never forget the arrival in school of two wooden boxes which, it transpired, contained various percussion instruments packed in straw. Her favourite was the drum. The infants practised under Miss Brennan's tutelage and gave a concert that autumn. Mrs Sharrott recalls a terrible occasion when a little girl's costume skirt caught fire, but it was quickly put out by the lad who came to help with the footlights. In the 1930's, the older children made a backdrop with pulleys and curtains to draw at the front. A play called "Robin Hood's Mill" was written by one of the boys, based on a local legend and performed in 1937. Puppet shows too were performed.

The school played an active rôle in the village celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and again in 1937 for the coronation of King George VI. There were visits to the local mills and gas works. In 1935, the seniors travelled to Leeds to see the Art Gallery, Town Hall, Museum and Newspaper Printing Works. Mr James Middleton has never forgotten that trip – he had his 7/6d spending money pick-pocketed! Fortunately Mr Bland lent him the money which he paid back the next day. The next year they visited Carlisle and in 1937 they journeyed to Bradford and were able to go into the Lord Mayor's Parlour and see his regalia. Lancaster and Heysham Docks were visited the following year and in May 1939 they went to Liverpool. There would be no more school trips until after the war.

On 20th July 1939, Mr Bland attended a meeting at Settle Town Hall about the Evacuation of children in an emergency. This became a reality with the outbreak of war in September and on 1st and 2nd September the school was opened for the reception of evacuees from Bradford; Mr Bland acted as Reception Officer and Billeting Officer and his staff assisted. On 3rd September a state of war was declared between Britain and Germany and for the next three days school was closed. When it reopened there were 15 evacuees attending from the Bradford area for whom separate registers were used. As the war progressed some of the Bradford evacuees returned home but others came from Brighton, Leeds, London and Hull. The local police constable visited frequently to inspect the children's gas masks and there were regular Air Raid Practices – "*rabbit*" (take cover), "*scatter*" (to houses) and "*down*" (get down flat). There were concerns that the air raid siren could not always be heard in Langcliffe village. The black-out was introduced and anti-splinter netting put up at all the school windows. On 16th March 1942, Mr Bland received secret instructions of procedure in the event of an invasion. Clothing coupons were issued to the children. A building inspector visited to consider the school railings being used as war materials – the Log does not say whether they were taken or not. Money was raised for the "*Overseas League Tobacco Fund for Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen*", the Settle Rural District War Weapons Week and "*Salute the Soldier Week*". Work in the garden increased and a Rabbit Club formed, with the boys



An example of the fund raising undertaken at school to support the war effort

making the hutches and erecting a shed. In 1940 a radio set was installed and 10/- paid for its licence. In 1944 school meals were served for the first time – 48 meals were served. They cost 5d for children, 8d for teachers off-duty and were free for teachers on duty and helpers.

On 6th June 1944 the children listened to the wireless news at 3.00 p.m. when the invasion of Europe began. There was a national holiday on V.E.Day on 8th May 1945.

On 28th June 1945, Miss Brennand retired. She had given 40 years of service to the school. Many former pupils remember her with great affection. The occasion was marked with presentations and tributes. Mr Dennis Middleton presented her with flowers. Later that year, on 14th November, Miss Brennand returned to take part in the celebrations to mark the end of the Second World War by planting a copper beech on the Green. It was named the "*Victory Tree*" and can still be seen to the left of the road gate at the side of the school. Miss B. Simpson was appointed in her place to the Infant Department.

There is an amusing entry in the Log Book for 21st February 1946 – "*A Banana, the 1st for 6 years came to school today : caused great interest*". The dates of the summer holidays were changed from the end of June – mid-August to about 20th July – the beginning of September.



The end of rationing?



*Eva Jackman, Catherine Hodgeson
Miss Katherine Townson, Mrs Edith Harris*

The Langcliffe Parents' Association was formed in 1946. The following year, in line with the 1944 Education Act, the school leaving age was raised to 15. This meant that the older scholars started a course of individual timetables and studies until 1948 when the 14 senior pupils were transferred to Ingleton Modern School.

During the dreadful winter of 1947 it was often difficult to get the dinners to the school, so the boys used to carry the containers up from the main road on sledges. One day the dinners did not come at all and so sledges were taken down to the local shop where potatoes, soup and bully (corned) beef and tea were bought and carried back to school and cooked on the gas stove in the lobby. A letter of congratulation was later received by the school, for its enterprise and effort, from the local Education Officer.

Mr Bland, having been appointed Area Youth Officer for the WRCC, left the school on 30th April 1947. There was of course a presentation ceremony, but sadly no details in the log. He must have been much missed by everyone, having been so much a part of village as well as school life. He was very highly regarded by his former pupils. A supply head took over for a term and then Mrs E.E. Harris was appointed Head Teacher. As Edith Graham she had been a pupil and pupil teacher at the school. There were 53 children on roll.

A Nursery class opened in 1949 with 17 children. This brought the number up to 71 children on roll. There are two remarkable events recorded during 1950. A great tit built its nest in the wooden letterbox on the school wall and reared eight fledglings (in subsequent years the letter box was taken over by starlings), and a consignment of sweets, the gift of the people of New Zealand, arrived. Each child received ½lb sweets which must have seemed wonderful after all the years of rationing.

In July 1952, Miss Graham retired after 40 years of devoted teaching, spent entirely at Langcliffe School. The occasion was marked by presentations from parents, past and present pupils and the managers. Miss Katherine Townson was appointed to the Infant Department. Miss Townson remained at the school for 21 happy years. She recalls the 1950's in the school as being cold, with an antiquated form of heating (there were serious problems with the boiler and more flooding at this time). As the toilets were still outside, she needed to dress the youngest children in coats and hats before they could go to the toilets in the winter months. In the summer she enjoyed taking her class out – up Cow Close, looking in the stream for caddis worms and water snails, or down Howsons Lane and up to Cat's Steps looking for wild flowers and fauna. Once they found a squirrel's hoard of nuts and acorns.

The late 1950s and 60s are recalled by Margaret Graveson (née O'Neil), Helen Atkinson (née Bean) and Kenneth Atkinson. The nursery children were supposed to have a nap on a camp bed in the hall after lunch. Mrs Graveson found it very difficult to go to sleep, covered by "*a scratchy red blanket*". Both she and Mrs Atkinson remember the Christmas party at school. The partition dividing the hall and classroom was pushed back to make a large open space for games. There were lots of party games and then, to find your partner for tea, you chose a card

from a pile – one for boys and one for girls. Each card had a name on it – for example Lord or Lady Langcliffe or Earl Ellwood. There were always masses to eat for tea. In the evening there was a Carol Concert for the parents; "O come all ye faithful" was always the last carol. At Easter the children made an Easter Garden with models of the tomb and angel, trimmed with moss and leaves. It was taken across to the church for Easter Sunday. They all remember listening to radio programmes like "Singing Together" and "Rhythm and Melody". Mrs Atkinson enjoyed Country Dancing, but Mrs Graveson absolutely dreaded it. Worst of all was Maypole Dancing – the maypole was put up in the playground with some of the big boys sitting on the base to keep it stable. *"Round and round we danced getting into some awful tangles which could only be undone by reversing"*. They would then dance on the lawn at Langcliffe Hall at the Church Garden Party. One year Mr Atkinson was chosen to sing at the Hall.

One of the school inspectors wore a fox fur round her neck. Mr Atkinson can remember hoping it would bite her! Mrs Graveson recalls a big book of "composition" that was shown to the inspectors. *"If your composition was good enough, you were shut in a classroom on your own and had to write it out in the big book with no blots and no crossing out. Two compositions I remember we had to write were 'A day in the life of a penny' and 'The lifecycle of a frog'"* She wonders where the book is now.

About 1960, the rent paid by WRCC to the trustees for the school building was increased to £50. It was then used towards the cost of educational outings and such like. At this time there were discussions about buying a plot of land and building a new primary school. The H.M.I. report of 1955 recommended that the nursery class should close when all the present children had moved up into the infants. (This happened in 1957). The report was rather critical of the school premises but said that they are *"by no means unsuitable for continued use until such time as a new school can be built."* About the work of the school it was very complimentary.



The school in 1970

Mrs Harris retired in December 1961 after 14 years as headteacher. Mrs Emily Gregory was appointed her successor and remained at the school for 4 years. She was succeeded by Mr Brian Semple in September 1966. Plans to build a new school must have been abandoned, because after years of problems with frozen or flooded toilets, the decision was taken to adapt the middle classroom (now no longer needed as the numbers on roll were around 40), into indoor toilets with a storage area. A staff toilet and storeroom were added soon after, though unfortunately the flooding of the school continued. In March 1970, a TV set and aerial was installed.

The village green was still being used for games – Mrs Carol Cowburn (née Atkinson) remembers playing rugby (and kiss chase!) at this time, but in 1972, 1.7 acres of land surrounding the school were bought. At long last the school had its own playing field and wild-life area. The school premises were sold to the Education Authorities for £2,750 in 1973. The money was invested by the trustees who became known as the "Langcliffe School Landlords" and each year an award can be applied for by a school or young person requiring assistance with their education or a travel bursary. In 1974, the West Riding County Council ceased to exist in the reorganisation of local government, and was replaced by the North Yorkshire County Council. Miss Townson retired in 1973 and Mr Semple left 2 years later, both highly regarded teachers. There followed a period of uncertainty, with numbers falling and several staff changes. Settle Middle School opened in 1977 which meant that children left their primary school after three years in the juniors, instead of four. There were serious doubts about the future of the school and many meetings were held between the Parent Teacher Association and the Education Committee. In 1981 it was decided that the school should remain open and Mrs Anne Clements was appointed as a permanent headteacher. She introduced a more open-plan approach to teaching. More work was done to the school building. The ancient coke boiler had been replaced in 1977 by a gas system. In 1982, the partition in the big room was removed and the ceilings throughout were lowered. The old toilets outside were dismantled, a new stone shed erected and the playground tarmacked.

Numbers however continued to fall, Mrs Clements left and it was decided that either Langcliffe or Stainforth School should close. Both villages fought hard to keep their school open, but in 1984, Stainforth School was closed. That same year, Mrs Hilary Foster (now known as Ms Macorison), was appointed headteacher with 17 children on roll. School Log Books are rarely maintained nowadays and the last entry in the Langcliffe School Log Book was made on 26th July 1985.

The years since were busy and successful for the school. The numbers have continued to fluctuate but the school prides itself on its family atmosphere. There have been more improvements to the school building. The old cloakroom/boiler room has been converted to a staffroom, the office has been enlarged, and there are new toilets for the boys and staff, with new ones for the girls due very soon. A special bay has been added for the school's computers. In recent years more work has been done to solve the flooding problem. New drains have been installed at the back of the school and so far these seem to be working. How pleased Mr Bland would be! The surrounding environment continues to be important – a

wild-life pond was created some years ago, an event happily recalled by Mrs Hannah Evans (née Wiggin). The gardening tradition is continued and there is a tree nursery supported by English Nature. The school was featured in the BBC's Landmark education programmes. There have been two good Ofsted reports in 1998 and 2003. I doubt if Miss Chambers would recognise the school now with its bright and cheerful paintwork and the "cosy" feel that so many of today's pupils remark upon. So much has changed, but the teachers still work incredibly hard for the benefit of their pupils. Despite all the problems with flooding and heating brought about by the school's site, it has always been a glorious place to go to school when the sun shines. Miss Townson recalled a jovial remark by Sir Alec Clegg, the legendary West Riding Chief Education Officer, that the teachers should pay the authority to work here! Many of the old scholars have written or spoken about their happy memories, combined with affection and admiration for their teachers.

In 1999 the governors decided to restore the school bell which had been silent for many years. Many people in the village gave donations and the bell was re-hung and rang in the new millennium on 1st January 2000.

The last few years have been difficult ones for the school. Ms Macorison took early retirement and moved to Australia. Her successor, Mrs Jill Wilson, brought new skills and huge enthusiasm to the job but the village was changing. There are very few families now living in the village, properties are very expensive and are often bought as second homes or holiday cottages. The local authority set up The North Craven Review and rumours were rife that the school would close. Numbers, which had been dropping, continued to fall. The parents, staff, governors and villagers put up a tremendous fight to save the school and despite a decision by the County Council to close the school, this decision was reversed by the Schools Organization Committee in May of 2006. The school bell was rung by all eleven of the children in jubilation that our school had been saved and in July a Garden Party was held to thank all those who had helped in so many different ways. We had to say good bye to Mrs Wilson who had had to apply for another headship when it looked as though the school would close. The Autumn Term 2006 has started with eleven children and a new Headteacher, Mrs Pearl Bowker. The future is uncertain and challenging but it was ever thus at Langcliffe!

SOURCES Langcliffe School Log Books, Langcliffe Parish Magazines 1908 – 1924, The Craven Herald, An Introductory History of English Education since 1800 by S.J.Curtis and M.E.A.Boulwood.

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Kate Croll

SCHOOL GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS
(c1905 TO 1970)



These two photos date from 1902 – 1911 and include the Headmaster Henry Woodhead. Unfortunately we do not know the female teachers.





Again these two photos date from 1902 – 1911 and include the Headmaster Henry Woodhead with unknown female teachers.





The Perfect Attenders in 1911 with headmaster Claude Bennett

Robert Monk, Willie Heselden, Eddie Bowker, Walter Heselden, Eddie Soames, Leonard Bannister, Alex Jackson, Jack Graham, Leslie Warren, Ralph Love, Ellis Greenhalgh, Arthur Graham

Henry Syers, Vera Bullock, Beryl Love, Annie Bradley, Rose Bolton, Gladys Graham, Eliza Carrington, Marion Graham, Olive Farrow, Annie Johnson, Elisha Whaites, Victor Wright

Phyllis Longmire, Cyril Farrow, Beryl Short, Alfie Johnson, Frances Potter, A. Greenhalgh, Helen Syers, Roy Farrow, Alice Heselden, Billy Booth, Annie Syers, Eddie Venn

-, Annie Taylor, Willie Bradley, -, Archie Melling, Mary Benson, ? Benson, Elsie Booth, Willie Fox, Millie Cardus, Harry Bradley, -



1920's

Above: Left to right

Back row: -, Arnie Syers, Frank Reid, -, Alfie Fox, ? Ormroyd, Dick Marsden, -, Leslie Benson

Second row: Mary Syers, Lizzy Potter, Phyllis Blades, Lizzy Whites, Cathy Yates, Rowena West, -, Dorothy Peel, Harriet Cardus

Third row: B. Blades, -, Susie Atkinson, Bessie Cardus, Elsie Day, -, -, Betty Allcock

Front row: -, Jack Hocking, Herbert Hocking, -, Ernest Syers, William Atkinson.





1920's

Above: Left to right

? Mellin, John Roberts, Matt Wilkinson, Tom Cardus, Jack Jackman, Leslie Middleton, Peter Ingham, Tom Middleton, Jack Whaites, Bobby Bateson, Harry Atkinson

Second row: Jack Cokell, Noel Wilson, Ethel Parker, Lily Thistlethwaite, Gladys Savage, Emily Ovington, Rachel Woods, Olive Jackman, Ivy Brown, Frank Peel

Front row: Alice Benson, Lucy Garrod, Maud James, Joan Houghton, Winnie Treverton





1920's

Left to right

Back row: R. Marsden, M. McLernon, A. Benson, H. Hocking, L. Benson

Second row: R. West, S. Atkinson, J. Veevers, M. Syers, P. Blades, L. Whitites, E. Potter, N. Frankland

Front row: N. Worthington, W. West, D. Peel, H. Cardus, B. Allcock, B. Benson, B. Cardus



1927

Left to right, back row: Joe Brown, Jack Hocking, John Middleton, Jack Towler, Billy Atkinson, M. Wilkinson

middle row: Dennis Newhouse, John Parrington, Mary Ovington, Mary Redmayne, Ernest Wilcock, Alan Cokell, J. Middleton

front row; Dot Cutrass, Doris Robinson, M. McLernon, Mary Lambert, Nellie Marshbank, Rita Venn



1920's

Left to right

Back row: J. Jackman, W. Cokell, F. Marklew, R. West, J. West, J. Tomlinson, W. Bullock, F. James, K. Jackman, C. Sparling, F. Cardus

Second row: W. Benson, I. Marsden, E. Benson, A. Sutton, I. Wilkinson, E. Wiggles, E. Hunt, I. Hocking, A. Wiggles, Betty Cokell

Third row: -, W. Potter, -, D. Hunt, O. Brown

Front row: T. Potter, R. Frankland, A. Capstick



1923/4

Left to right

Back row: John Wilcock, John McLernon, Frank Houghton, Alfie Fox, Ernest Marklew, Donnie Whaites

Second row: Fred Bullock, Frank Reid, Joe Atkinson, Arnie Syers, Stan Redfern

Front row: Marjorie Tomlinson, Winnie Hocking, Lily Benson, Alice Sutton, Marion Hindsley



1940's



1940's Some names

? Wilcock, John Cokell, Robert Monk, ?Kitchener, ?Graham, Maude James, Ivy Brown, Emily Ovington, Denis Robinson, James Middleton, Alf Hocking, Alan Cokell, ?Newhouse, John Parrington, Joe Brown, Jack Whaites, Ken Middleton, Margaret Whaites, Mary Ralph



School Group 1946



1952 with Mrs Harris



With teachers Eva Jackman and Catherine Hodgeson



1953 Coronation Year Group with Miss Townson



School Group 1958

Left to right

Back row: Gordon Bryson, Colin Ralph, Geoffrey Crowe, James O'Neil, Michael Capstick

Second row: Jennifer Firth, Susan Forster, Janet Marsden, Susan Trusler, Greta Marklew, Carol Monk

Front row: Kenneth Atkinson, Gregory Grimshaw, Paul Forster, Robert Towler, James Chapman, Roger Burrows



1958



c 1957

Left to right: Back row: Bette Bowen, Clifford Potts, Jane Buswell, Maureen O'Neil, Richard Kirkbride, Roy Fox, Susan Phillipson, Brian Cokell, Joan Yates, Mrs E.E.Harris (head)

Second row: John Biggs, Marion Fitchett, Elaine Bradley, Duncan Reid, Christine Lund, Anne Potter, Keith Burrow, Leslie Heal, Sam Walton

Third row: Geoffrey Crowe, Stephen Ralph, Malcolm Potts, Mavis Bradley, Michael Brookes, Margaret O'Neil, Bryan Tomlinson, Geoffrey Lund, Susan Towler, Leslie Cokell, Christine Atkinson, Pat Lamb, Helen Bean

Fourth row: Paul Phillipson, Simon Walton, Leonard Potts, Anne Marklew, Keith Ralph, Margaret Yates, Janet Ralph, Janet Potter, Anne Worthington, Susan Burrow, Sylvia Thompson

Front row: Gordon Bryson, James O'Neil, Brian Huck, Lyndon Bird, Michael Capstick, Greta Marklew, Denis Maunders, Graham Whaites, Peter Fox



Visit to see Harry Corbett and Sooty



Left to right

Back row: F. Gregory, -, S. Gregory, Steven Jackman, -, -

Second row: Steven Carr, Philip Stevens, Billy Middleton, Robert Towler, Jimmy Chapman

Third row: Hazel Scott, Janet Ralph, Lynn Jackman, Barbara Trusler, Elizabeth Middleton, -

Front row: Stephen Worthington, Janice Lambert, Sylvia Jackman, Valerie Lynn, Raymond Bryson



1957?

Left to right: Back row: ? Marsden, Brian Cokell, ? Fox, John Seggar
 Second row: -, William Hartley, Keith West, David Ashurst, John Marklew, Brian Tomlinson, -, -. Third row: Maureen O'Neil, Jane Buswell, Christine Atkinson, Susan Phillipson, Betty Bowen, Marjorie Bowen, Judith Fox. Front row: -, Joan Yates, -



1957?

Left to right: Back row: Stephen Ralph, Roy Brown, John Biggs, Keith Burrows, Malcolm Potts, Leslie Heal, Leslie Cokell, Michael Brooks
 Second row: Margaret O'Neil, Janet Potter, Margaret Yates, Elaine Bradley, Pat Lamb, Marion Fitchet, Anne Worthington, Sylvia Thompson, Helen Cokell, Janet Ralph
 Front row: Keith Ralph, -, Dennis Maunders, Geoffrey Lund, Alan Brown, Leonard Potts,-



1957?

Left to right: Back row: Ann Baldwin, Peter Cokell, Paul Phillipson, S. Ralph, Brendan Cokell, Peter Lawson, Alan Cokell?, -, ? Lord. Second row: Kathryn Blythe, ? Mackale, Michael Capstick, David Hartley, Susan Burrows, Anne Marklew, Greta Marklew, Ruth Robinson?, Lyndon Bird, Philip Cox?, Geoffrey Crowe. Front row -, -, -



Left to right: Back row: Jimmy Chapman, Stephen Jackman, Jeremy Thistlethwaite, Stephen Carr. Second row: Philip Stevens, Robert Towler, Billy Middleton, Colin Ralph, Ian Gregory, Kenneth Atkinson. Front row: Janet Ralph, Jennifer Firth, Greta Marklew, Carol Monk, Barbara Trusler



1961

Left to right: Back row: ? McLennon, Colin Firth, Ian Brown
 Second row: Stephen Jackman, David Firth, Raymond Bryson, Andrew Kirby, Stephen Worthington, Fergus Gregory. Front row: Gowan Kirby, Amanda Thistlethwaite, Elizabeth Middleton, Jean Chapman, Janice Lambert, Sylvia Jackman, Valerie Lynn, Julie Stevens



Left to right: Back row: Jimmy Chapman, Billy Middleton, Stephen Jackman
 Second row: Sylvia Jackman, Lynn Jackman, Barbara Trusler, Jennifer Firth, Janet Ralph, Elizabeth Middleton
 Front row: David Firth, -, Sandy Gregory, Fergus Gregory



1966 ?

Left to right: Back row: -, -, David Firth, Colin Firth
 Second row: Michael Murfin, Andrew Kirby, Mark Thornton, Sylvia Jackman, Janice Lambert, Peter Rushton, Simon Massey, Ian Brown. Front row: Gowan Kirby, Susan Middleton, Hazel Scott, Julie Stevens, Valerie Lynn, Jill Ellis



1966?

Left to right: Back row: Steven Kidd, ? Parker, ? Parker
 Second row: Julian Thornton, David Potts, Dorothy Lodge, Jackie Firth, Jill Middleton, Alan Lodge
 Front row: Karen Gray, Carol Atkinson, Rebecca Thornton, Sylvia Capstick, Christine Middleton, Margo Rushton, Shirley Middleton



Left to right: Back row: -, Steven Kirby, Mark Thornton, Simon Massey, David Firth, Peter Rushton, -, Colin Firth, Alan Lodge. Second row: Michael Murfin, Ian Brown, Susan Middleton, Jill Ellis, Jill Middleton, Sylvia Jackman, Janice Lambert, Hazel Scott, Valerie Lynn, Julie Stevens, Julian Thornton. Front row: Steven Kidd, Ian Parker, Carol Atkinson, Dorothy Lodge, Margo Rushton, Gowan Kirby, Sylvia Capstick, Shirley Middleton, Christine Middleton, Rebecca Thornton, Karen Gray, Jackie Firth, David Potts, ? Parker



1961/62

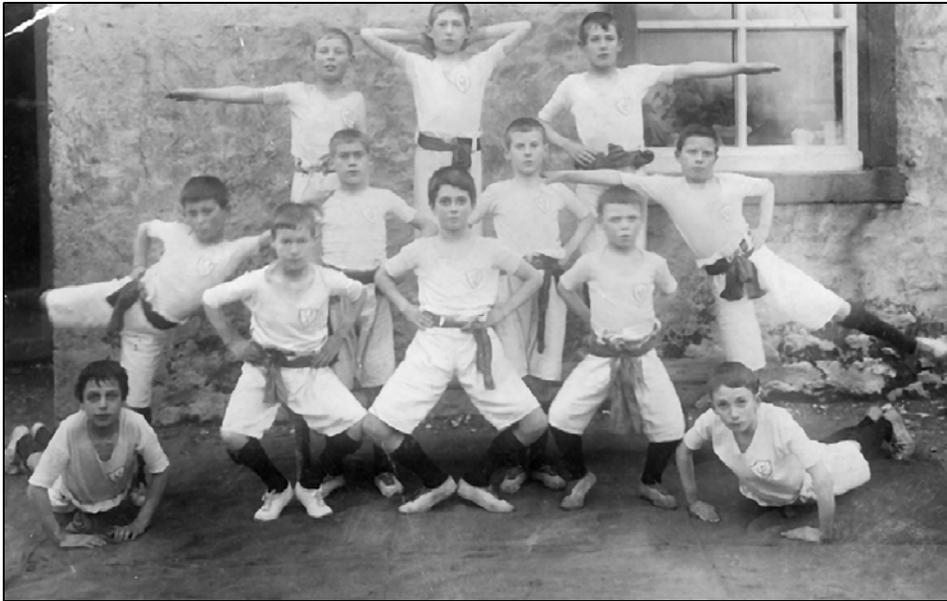
Left to right: Back row: Michael Capstick, Ian Gregory, Colin Ralph, Kenneth Atkinson. Second row: Lyndon Bird, Paul Phillipson, Leonard Potts, Geoff Crowe, Brian Huck, James O'Neil. Front row: Greta Marklew, Anne Marklew, Helen Bean, Susan Trusler, Anne Worthington, Carol Monk

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The following photographs show a wide variety of recreational activities, some of which raise questions about what is going on! The pictures are not in date order and rather little is known about names and dates.



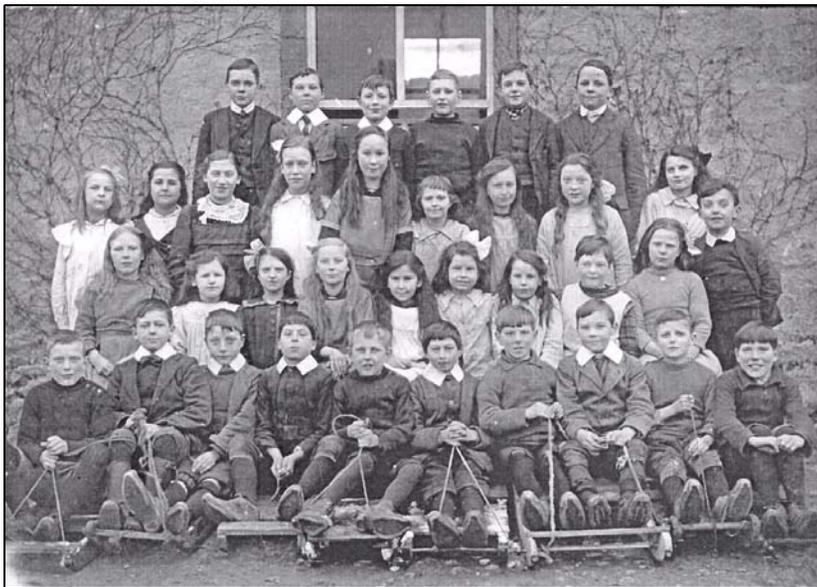






The football team 1912

Back row: -, C. Wright, L. Banister, E. Soames, -. Seated: -, A. Graham, -, -
 Front row: -, M. Hunter ? (Photo J. and K. Jelley (reproduced with permission))



1919/20

-, D. Worthington, -, Wilf Syers, A. Chapman, B. Fox.
 M. Cardus, -, P. Bullock, F. Potter, M. Redfern, -, B. Capstick, P. Longmire, M. Benson.
 -, D. West, E. Booth, ? Redfern, E. Fisher, S. Yates, O. Syers, -, R. Warnes.
 E. Reid, G. West, B. Potter, L. Venn, J. Cardus, S. Cokell, F. Ormerod, H. Worthington, J.
 Benson,-



Football team approximately 1923/4

Left to right. Back row: Joe Atkinson, Stan Redfern, Arnie Syers, John Wilcock
 Middle row: Herbert Hocking, Andrew Benson, Fred Bullock, John McLernon, Ernest Marklew. Front row: Alfie Fox, Frank Reid



Football team c1935

Back row: J.R.Middleton, John Cokell, Ronnie Newhouse, John Parrington, Ernest Wilcock, Ernest Kitchener
 Front row: Joe Brown, Bobbie Monk, Dennis Newhouse (captn.), John Towler, James Middleton



Cricket team 1920's

Left to right: Back row: J. Jackman, J. Tomlinson, C. Sparling, Billy Bullock, Ernest Marklew. Middle row: Jack Jackman, Alec Capstick, John West
Front row: Frank James, ? Potter, ? Cokell



Cricket team 1920's

Left to right. Back row: Irene Marsden, Ivy Walkman, Ethel Hunt, A. Sutton, Edith Wiggles. Middle row: Emily Benson, Olga Howell, W. Benson, D. Hunt?
Front row: Amy Wiggles, Irene Hocking



MARY JOHN
 LANGCLIFFE CHILDREN in fancy dress underneath the village arch, a feature of the decorations in the village to mark the Coronation. C.H. 14.5.37.

C.H. 14.5.37.
LANGCLIFFE
 PRESENTATION OF SPOONS.
 On Friday morning at the Langcliffe Provided School, Mr. John Ingham, of Langcliffe Place, presented to each child attending the school a Coronation souvenir spoon, given by the West Riding County Council. Mr. Ingham also gave a short address.



A Wedding



Mr Bland with children at Bradford Town Hall - the Lord Mayor's regalia in 1937



Above: Left to right
? Ashurst, Jean Robinson, Mary Worthington, Monica Robinson, John Fox, Frank
Middleton, Geoffrey Craven, Edgar Moore, Dannie McLernon
Peggy Marklew standing, John Worthington, Leonard Redfern kneeling





1950's Looking at the sundial



The Maypole Dancers 1950's



Visit to York







A SNOWY NIGHT IN 1937

The following article by H. H. Bland was published in the Leeds Mercury, 10th March, 1937 and is reproduced by permission of The Yorkshire Evening Post

Our Village Coronation Committee

The Crown Jewels of Orion rest majestically over the head of the limestone fell as the last light in the village lengthens my shadow along the snow. My heavy wellington boots crunch the hardening surface. I am muffled to the ears as the east wind swings down from the high ridges. Under my arm, carefully wrapped and stringed, is the Coronation Festivities Committee Minute Book, and an accumulating bundle of correspondence. My Committee meet tonight and business will be heavy.

In a slight hollow in the sweeping lines of the hills the village school huddles beneath a few tall elms. Lights from the windows indicate a busy night. The Band is practising marching tunes for the procession in May and as I enter the lobby jolly music crashes to a close. It is very hard talking in committee when they play in the little hall and it is arranged that their practices shall come to an end before half past seven. They break off and some join us in our classroom and others disappear in the dark.

The Chairman is there at the desk and the Treasurer has his account books open and is receiving moneys from members who were out last Friday pay-night collecting the weekly pennies and twopences which are steadily increasing the funds. We wait and talk until the late-comers arrive.

They come in twos and threes; some twenty keen workers. Several husbands and wives arrive and immediately separate as all the women sit over on the left and the men over on the right, equal in voting power and aims but divided in function. It is a kind of unwritten law. Broadly the men take the responsible official positions and do the heavy work: the women, the numerous catering jobs at socials, whist drives and dances.

The women form the Catering Committee and on them will rest the responsibility for preparing and serving a huge tea for every inhabitant of the Parish. Many of them will also serve in the Procession Committee. The men's main job at the moment is the planning out of the decorative scheme for the whole township, and on other nights they are busy measuring the lengths and widths of streets or working hard in the coach house where decorative arches and mottoes are being created. Great care is taken in the planning out of all these things as local pride aspires to claim that our decoration scheme shall be supreme in the whole of the Dale.

The Village Moot

Tonight we gather together to report progress and to plan further activities for increasing growing funds. We are a grand, democratic mixture and the roof-tree of the old classroom symbolises the Big Tree on the Village Green. We are the Village Moot, and manager, mill workers, electricians, parson, shopkeepers, quarrymen, teacher, joiners, housewives all work together to the same end - the communal rejoicings of May 12th 1937, Coronation Day.

Committee meetings are always keen, watchful affairs; very business-like and democratic. All plans reports and money matters have to be placed before the meeting and carefully worded in the minutes. Procedure begins with the minutes and ends with the Chairman's tap of dismissal and "I declare the meeting closed." There is a lively friendly informality throughout but with plenty of discussion which always leads to a formal resolution. No resolutions went into the Minute Book during Abdication Week; the affair was hardly mentioned but the weekly collections went on without interruption. The sample mug we got from a dealer is now a curio.

Bargains made

We go straight into discussion of our immediate plans. The Decorations Sub-committee bring in aspects of bargains made with the electricity company, and arrangements made for supply connections with private households on the great day. They describe electric bulbs bought and bunting to buy and make and the arches to be built. The Treasurer reports the financial position and moneys are allocated to the Sports, Decorations and Catering Committees. Arrangements are made for next week's Whist Drive and Dance. Everyone is given some job, prizes planned for, dance band engaged and so step by step, resolution by resolution, to the end and out we go into the wintry night. I am the last to leave and turn out the light.

I step out into the snow. The village green is deserted, the Village Hall in darkness. But next Friday that Hall will be a blaze of light. Our workers will be rushing round arranging tables and packs of cards. Our women will be busy in the kitchen, and soon keen-eyed, grim-faced fours will work through the twenty four hands of cards for the prizes which I have now to obtain from friends of the village and the Committee. Then later the tables will be cleared and the Dance Band will tune its instruments and young people will come in for dancing until two in the morning. They come on 'bus, cycle and motor from the distant Dales villages and lonely farms, and in laughter and swift movement and music spin through the middle-night hours. Our funds will increase, and the planned pleasures of Coronation Day will be ensured.

But now the Village Hall is silent and the trees round the Green are bare, their branches black against the sky. In May they will sparkle with strings of coloured lights, and rockets will shriek up to the stars from above the village. Hours of work and constant effort is being spent by all these workers now reached home and at ease behind the lighted windows, and I must make for mine.

The wintry sky sparkles with myriads of stars and Orion has moved upwards; Sirius the Dog Star, the jewel of all jewels, winks and blinks through its royal colours above the tall trees by the Church. They crown our winter-made plans for our summer glories here in the hollow of the fells.

REPORT ON LANGCLIFFE'S CORONATION DAY FESTIVITIES

(Extracts from the Craven Herald 14.5.1937)

Langcliffe was a village of decorated arched structures of wood covered with evergreens and with red, white and blue devices and electric fairy lights. Nearly every house in the village was "en fete". The scene was unusually impressive when the fairy lights were switched on in the evening. The Garden of Remembrance and the Memorial were beautifully illuminated, as was the Big Tree.

The day's festivities began with a procession from the Village Green to the Big Tree, headed by officials and the Langcliffe Band. At the Tree a united service was held. Prior to the service a wreath was laid on the War Memorial by Mr T. Monk.

After the service the procession re-formed and proceeded to Langcliffe Paper Mill, via New Street, Ellwood, Ribble Bank and Willow Wood, returning to the Village Green for the judging for the fancy dresses.

Tea was then provided free for all the residents of the township, adults having tea in the Provided School and children in the Langcliffe Institute. As the children entered the Institute, they were presented with Coronation mugs, a new three penny piece and a Coronation medal. Tea was served by the Ladies Tea Committee and friends.

Sports were held after tea on the Village Green. At 8 p.m. the villagers assembled on the Green to hear the broadcast of the King's speech. A firework display followed. The proceedings closed with dancing in the Village Institute.

On Friday morning at the Langcliffe Provided School, each child attending the school was presented with a Coronation souvenir spoon, given by the West Riding County Council.

OUR SCHOOL - by the children of today

Our school is special because we have a great pond next to where we play. In summer we always go and see the creatures around it and in it. We saw three big and lots of little frogs.

Our school is special because we have a superb wooded corner where we make dens.

Our school is special because we have lots of good equipment for outside. We have a climbing frame and two bicycles for the little children.

by Robyn

I think Langcliffe School is special because we have lots of things that other schools don't have like fish ponds, a post office and a wildlife area. I like the cook's food because it's yummy. I like the fact that the school is not too cramped.

by Jessica

The food is great. The football goals are enormous. Small schools are great because it is quiet. The pond is spectacular because you can watch animals at playtime.

by Zac

I like the post office because you can pretend that it is real. I like the library because you can read different books. Playtimes are lots of fun because there is a lot of space to play games. Learning is fun because we all work together.

by Philip

I like the big leaf in the classroom because it is nice and warm and I like to snuggle up underneath it on the bags.

by William

I loved it when Philip's mum came in and told us that the School was staying open. I thought it was great! I enjoyed it when we had all the celebrations: one of them was going to Camelot. It was great in fact it was FABULOUS!

I like the woodland corner because we can build dens in there on a lovely day. The reason why I like it is because we grew those trees from seed and now they are fully grown trees.

I LOVE THIS SCHOOL!

by Connor Casey Stroud

The food is great to eat and we can all sit together for lunch.

There are great teachers.

The children are all kind here.

by Daniel

We have two goldfish called Lang and Cliffe and I like feeding them.

by Freja

The children are kind here. The playground is wonderful. The computer games are wonderful here. I love to cuddle up on the beanbags. We even have a tree nursery with holly and other trees. The pond is filled with frogs. We have a fabulous field with lots of flowers.

Every day we hear the bell ring but only the year fives are allowed to ring it so I am looking forward to being a year five.

We go on brilliant school trips, once we went to Settle sorting office.

The school dinners here are fabulous.

The teachers are great, they are brilliant at teaching Maths. There are lots of toys at Langcliffe School.

Just think how lucky we are to have Langcliffe School.

by Lauren Pamela Hill.



The top of the bell is inscribed, but it has not been possible to read it fully or with certainty.

ROWLAND INGRAM MA

Early St. Althold Church Giggleswick

AD 1838