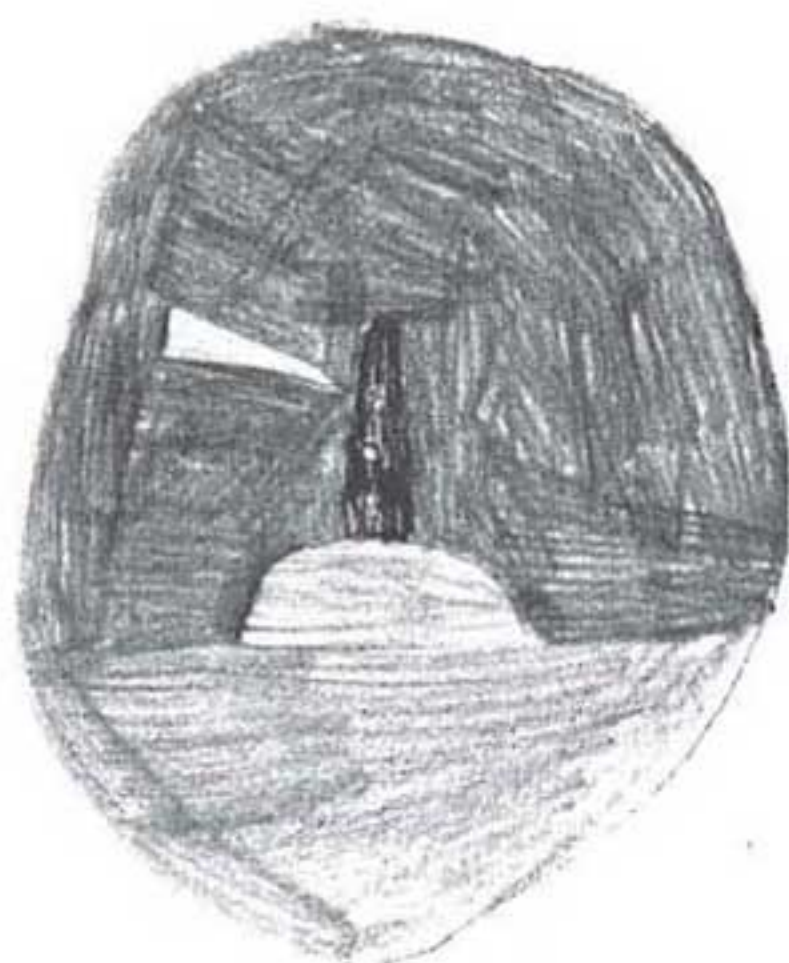


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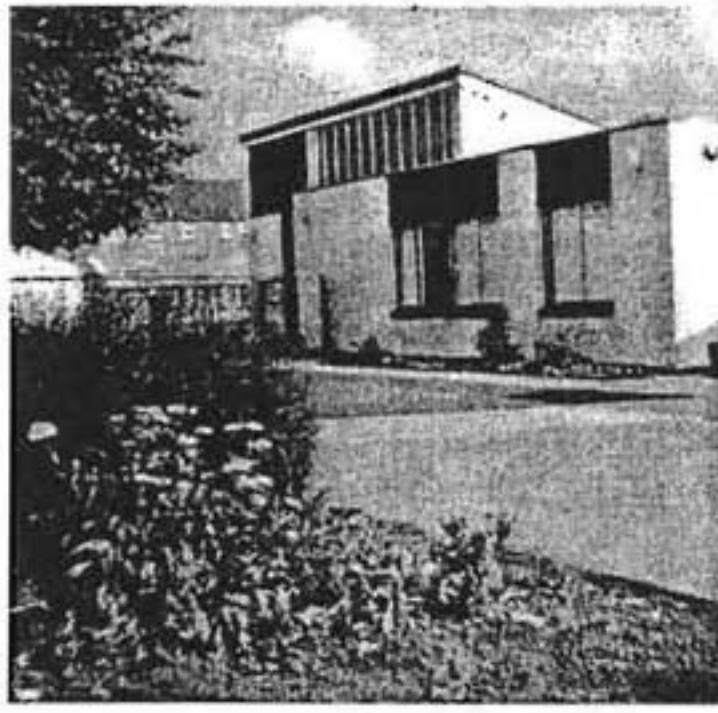


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# TNCHVEIW

30 Years of Inchevew

Gemma Doig



## ***INCHVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL***

### ***History***

*Inchview primary school was built on the site of the old Pennywell school and opened its doors on the the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1973.*

*It was given its name by the local councillor for the area who officially opened the school along with the new headteacher, Miss Kathleen Dougall and six year old Albert Duncan.*

Gina Whitelaw  
Miss Kathleen Dougall



## Pennywell School

Well, it's been a long time, since I walked through the doors of Pennywell School in 1940. My memories were unhappy unfortunately, with being given the strap on the hand at aged 7 that left me black and blue for days after it. That was a big brute of a woman called Miss Wallace, the head teacher. I was cheeky to a Miss Bib, who dobbed me in to Miss Wallace.

Mr Davie was a kindly man, he was in charge of the school on the Ferry Road, and a Mrs Morgan, was the sort of chief attendant, caretaker, medic, and the rest; I met her years afterwards in a shop at Comely Bank. She even recognised me, hi. It was difficult years for all the people then, with the war, and I daresay, hard for the staff to cope with kids who were rebellious, frightened of the war, and in my case, from an unhappy home. (I lived in (6 Ferry Road Gardens at the time). I do remember kids then, Billy Brims, Joey Cardownie, John Williamson, Molly Black, Alex Fyfie, and lots more.

Do you know, I met a man called Frank Redpath the other day, he was at Pennywell too, and lived at the Pennywell road end at the same time as us. I hadn't seen him for 60 years, and it was a shock!... My sadness too, in those early years, was to be cheated out of the dux by Elma Brown, we were both equal in marked for the years, but they needed a Gala Queen for the West Pilton Community Gala Day, and of course, she was a girl, so they gave the dux to her!...I saw her years later and she wouldn't speak to me. For various reasons I suppose. I was told at the school I 'could' go to Leith Academy, and ran home to tell my mother, and she said "I want you here to run messages", so I never got to Leith Academy, My dad had a business in Elm Row, I was signed up for Heriots in 1939, the business went on fire with no insurance, so I never got to Heriots. I ended up in a technical school, and my loves were English classics, and poems, and music. Why was I at a tech school? I was highest for three years at Ainslie Park for those subjects.

I did well for myself here in Australia, so I am not fazed. My brother, who was also at Pennywell School, ended up as RSM in the British Army but has not passed on. So, goodly folks of Edinburgh, just have a look at all those little tackers (Bairns) you teach, and recognise that one day they may all be good people out in the world somewhere. And that will make you feel happy I expect...

Take care now,  
Graeme Munro  
Adelaide, South Australia.

## Inchview Primary

### Kathleen A Dougall (Headteacher 1972 - 1990)

I have many memories of Inchview. One of my favourites is also one of my most abiding. It is the memory of the look of awe and wonder on the faces of the children as we gathered each year for our Christmas Carol Service and sat encircling the Christmas tree in the warm glow of candlelight. The hall was in darkness - the tree was decked in silver and shone with soft white lights - the candles around the tree were lit one by one and the children from nursery to P7 together with teachers and many parents listened to the Christmas story and in unison sang out our favourite carols -

*Wind through the olive trees  
See him lying on a bed of straw  
Light the lamps, Joseph  
Girls and boys leave your toys  
Star in the golden sky*

*Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.....*  
It's a precious memory but only one among many.



Memories of children - 'open', responsive and trusting  
Memories of parents - appreciative, supportive, loyal and friendly  
Memories of teachers - who could not do enough for the children in their care -  
who loved the children and were loved by them in return.

Once Mrs Main was questioning a group of children to find out what kind of 'reward' they most wanted. Did they appreciate most of all being given sweets or was there some other way they could be rewarded for their efforts? All the children in the group asked for praise and encouragement but Denver along with many others wanted a star. A star? Why a star? Because you can 'feel it' and 'touch it' and 'it never goes away'.

When 'Inchview' closes its doors for the last time it is hoped, that in years to come the happy memories it evokes will be 'like a star' and 'never go away'



## **Pupil Memories 1970's-1980's**

I remember the headmistress was Miss Dougall. One of my class teachers was Mr Mann, who was my favourite teacher. The secretary was Miss Berry and the jannie was Charlie Galloway. I liked going out at break to play football with a few of my friends like Colin Muir, David Bell and James Laidlaw.

**Bryan Monaghan, Pupil 1973 - 1980**

My most vivid memory of my time at Inchview is of the Jannie, Mr Galloway. He used to come into the classroom and sing us songs such as 'John Brown's Body'. I also remember him showing us across the road to the park at break times. I also have lots of memories of Miss Dougall, like going to her office for spelling tests. My teachers were Mrs Coupar, Mr MacMillan, and Mr Anderson. The funniest story was when I was in primary 6. Mr Anderson was out of the classroom and we all had shots of practising snogging in the cupboard...(can't remember who with though)!

**Gina Whitelaw, Pupil 1973-1978, Parent 1997 - 2003, School Board member 1997 - 2001, School Board Chair 2001 - 2003**

Quite honestly the only days I enjoyed were my first and last days. I felt like I didn't fit into the school because kids would give me a hard time due to my colour.

My favourite memory was going to the Council to meet the Lord Provost and accept a certificate for writing in Scots language. My other favourite memory was that Miss Dougall and Mrs Main were always kind and asked how you were. I was surprised that the school was to close and hope that the school doesn't lose its identity.

**Mark Brammer, Pupil 1978 - 1984? and Parent 2001 - 2003**

I enjoyed Inchview but didn't enjoy High School. The outings and residential were good especially Ratho. I remember all the friends I made at school. Miss Dougall was really, really nice. You think it's a bad thing the school closing because it's been here so long but it might be good as well as it's a new school and it's nearer me.

**Julie Brammer, Pupil 1980 - 1986 and Parent 2001 - 2003**

I remember that the teachers were very nice and it was such a friendly school back then.

**Kerry White, Pupil 1985 - 1992**

I think Inchview was a very good School with friendly teachers & staff. We felt very close to everyone due to the size & open plan of the School. My favourite memory of the School has to be the visit to Yellowcraigs with Miss Dougall!. I feel very sad about the closure of the School. I always felt a very strong bond with the School and the Teachers, which is why I enrolled my own kids here, despite the fact that I now live in Granton. I have some old photographs from our visit to Yellowcraigs and some old pupils.

**Lynette Herd, Pupil 1992 -and Parent 1998 - 2003**

First, it was really close from my house to School...loved that! Plus I never forgot coming here as it was great. For me, I looked forward to every day...honestly! Football at break time was great and I was very close with my teachers, Mr Mann & Miss Dougall. I am very sorry to hear the School is closing and wish it could stay open!

**Colin Muir Parent 1994 - 2003**

My memories of my experiences at Inchview are of cooking with Mrs Berry & Mrs Main and receiving the mouthwash from Miss Dougall! My favourite memory of the School is when my class performed in a Shakespeare Play called 'MACBETH' with Miss Warwick! I find the closure of the School quite upsetting.

**Charles Wright**

When I got off the bus for my first visit I met Mrs Hume who directed me to Inchview and chatted about how great the school was. That was a nice introduction. Memories of individual children having fun in the dunes at Yellowcraigs and running straight into the freezing sea! Trips on the mini-bus were a weekly treat. I doubt any primary school had their own dedicated mini-bus now. These excursions would enable many children who did not go on Holiday or have a car at home to visit many parts of the City. In fact, the centre of town was often referred to as 'Edinburgh'.

The year's end was celebrated at Christmas with candles in a circle. Is this still done? I also remember a young boy singing 'Bright Eyes' with Mr Dougie Mann playing the piano...Happy Days! I enjoyed working at Inchview and especially appreciated the friendships and support of all the other teachers. I am sure the happy & hopeful atmosphere generated at Inchview will continue at the new school. Good luck at the new school!

**Mrs Bloomfield**



## **Teachers Memories**

My favourite experience of Inchview occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1972 when we went looking for Inchview Primary School. No one seemed to know where it was, not even at the local police station. After a long hunt, we found a building site in West Pilton Avenue and it turned out to be Inchview Primary School. Four classrooms were ready for occupation. Ms Dougall was there, Mr Galloway and his dog Kim and that was it. That was the start of many happy and some sad days working at Inchview, there was never a dull moment and lots of work to keep you busy. I have lots of favourite memories - Christmas parties, zoo, Halloween parties with the staff and children dressed up and Yellowcraigs, where it never rained once in all the years I was there! I don't like to think of Inchview closing. I always thought small was beautiful and the children got a lot more from the classes being small in numbers.

**Mrs Jean Berry, School Secretary 1972**

I was the first school secretary and enjoyed working there very much. I thought the teaching staff were very patient with the children and the Open-plan was especially good when the classes were small. I also thought that the staff were very welcoming to the parents. I liked that because parents often felt in awe of their family's teachers. There was a very good team spirit in the school probably due to the exceptional Head Teacher's teaching ability. My favourite memory is of a Friday morning when I could hear the children singing at their weekly service. It was lovely to hear then being accompanied by a member of staff playing the piano or wind instrument. On hearing Inchview is to close, I felt very angry and sad and wondered why? Especially since the school was as popular and so young - surely it is not in need of demolition already?

**Charlotte A. Mathieson, School Secretary 1972**

I started at Inchview in January 1973 as one of the original 3 class teachers. Right from the start I knew I was somewhere unique and exciting. My favourite memory was of the summer trip to Yellowcraigs. The whole school went and we sat in the hollow near the beach having lunch together - a great end to the school year. I think it is very sad Inchview is closing. The school is in a good position at the centre of the community. It has a history of a successful school helping many children and families.

**Chris Saddler nee Johnston, Teacher 1973**

I taught at Inchview between 1975-1979. My experiences of Inchview were six very challenging children for my first year of teaching, which I call my 'Baptism of Fire' but this experience taught me so much. There was almost a mystical quality about Miss Dougall's leadership, support and inspiration. It was a real privilege to work with her, the other staff and the youngsters at such a formative time in my own life and have the chance to contribute. My favourite memory was of Charlie Galloway's guided tours of Edinburgh and of Paul's conversation with Her Majesty's Inspector of Primary Schools when he declared Inchview, "Barrow" (posh for barrie!) I feel sad that the school is closing but the green shoots will appear elsewhere.

**Derek Raffaelli, Teacher 1975-1979**

When I was at Inchview the Teachers always had lunch with the pupils. Here is just one of the many experiences I had at Inchview. I remember a pupil asking what was on the lettuce in his salad. He was told that it was cress. "I'm no eating gress!" he exclaimed. My first experience of Christmas was walking into the hall and seeing a 'real' Christmas tree surrounded by wine bottles full of lit candles. This was breathtakingly beautiful and watching the children's faces experience this was just wonderful! I feel very sad that this forward thinking and innovative school has only lasted 30 years.

**Karen Aikman, Teacher 1980's**

I had three happy chapters of my working life with Inchview. From joining Lothian Regional Council in April 1978 until 1983 when my responsibilities included Nursery Education. During this time we piloted successfully a version of 'Early Intervention' in the school. From 1985 - 1993 I was involved with the school as a member.

My favourite memory has to be my first meeting with Kathleen Dougall. If you want to know the real meaning behind the words of 'Mission' & 'Charismatic', trace back her career. Much more recently I'll never forget the look of wonder and delight on the faces of the school staff when they heard the initial verbal feedback last Summer from the very successful Review.

Maybe I'm not the best person to ask what I think of the closure of Inchview, as I have played a part in wider re-organisation of schools in Pilton/Muirhouse! I do believe, however, that by combining with Craigmuir, both schools will be able to build on their individual strengths to provide further educational opportunities for the children. The concert on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002 gave a glimpse of what is possible.

**Alasdair Mackintosh, Neighbourhood Liaison Officer, Education Department**



I was visiting PE specialist at Inchview for 14 years. I remember the enthusiasm and enjoyment the pupils of Inchview always showed. When I retired I really missed everyone. My favourite memory was of the hall full of pupils practising their Scottish Dancing ready for their Christmas celebrations. I'm very sad that such a friendly and successful school should be closing.

**Barbara Rhodes, PE Teacher**

My favourite memories of Inchview area all to do with food! Picking blackberries at the railway line and making them into jam every summer. Using the broth mix we'd confiscated from the kids in P5-7 (who had been using it as peashooters!) to make delicious broth. Making Christmas cake with P7 but using a recipe from World War Two (our project). With no sugar, butter or flour, it tasted vile! Making toffee apples with my first class (P7 - 1980-81) whilst on camp at Ratho. I am very shocked and saddened to learn the school is closing. It will be West Pilton's loss.

**Jenny Sutherland, Teacher 1980-1987**

I taught P3 and P4 in the 'middle area' for four years from 1988 - 1994. We always had a trip every week with Mrs Berry in the minibus. I took my class of 16 children everywhere in Edinburgh where it was free. Parks, museums, art galleries, Corstorphine Hill - everywhere! One day we took a service bus to town at Festival time. A juggler moved us on, as his act was unsuitable for children! We ate our playpieces in the gardens and the orchestra was rehearsing for the fireworks concert that night. At that time, I had a wee girl who was not well and unable to walk very far. By this time, she had to be carried along the gardens. She was afraid of wasps and she shrieked every time one came near. She was getting very tired. We headed off to get the bus home and she said, "That was a good trip, eh?"

We never saw her again, as she became ill and died at the September weekend. Those who were at her funeral will never forget it I am sure. A few weeks later we were on another trip to Dunsapie Loch. As we climbed Arthur's Seat, someone said, "We are really high up here. Do you think wee Charmaine can see us?" I said I thought she probably could.

**Janette Niven, Teacher 1988 - 1994**

I was school nurse at Inchview for about 15 years. There was much satisfaction to be gained working there. The pupils and staff all made Inchview an interesting place to be. My favourite memory was of lunch times when the staff would play Boticelli. I'm still lost!

**Moir Waldman, School Nurse**

I was a Nursery Nurse at Inchview. What a lovely place to work. A happy 60 place full time Nursery is quite a feat. My favourite memories were of fun, friendship and laughter. My views on the closure: It's bitter sweet, but the move should be good for everyone in the present school.

**Lynda Bardai, Nursery Nurse**

I was a Nursery Nurse at Inchview school for 3 years. It was my first job as a Nursery Nurse and it has been my favourite job. I loved the children and the other staff were really great to work with. Twenty one years later, I still keep in touch with three staff I met, we have become lifelong friends. I still have all the photos of the children and staff I worked with and sometimes wonder how all the children are getting on, they are probably all mums and dads to their own children by now!

Inchview was a very happy place to be and I hope it still is.

**Frances Robertson, Nursery Nurse**

I was a very young teacher when I started at Inchview in October 1985. KDC (the Headteacher) persuaded me to start 'the next day' although I had only just arrived home from a year travelling the USA. What a shock to find 30 P1 faces eager to run off in all directions! I remember KD put flowers on my desk for my arrival. She was a very special person and taught me, by example, how to bring out the best in everyone. Everything I learned whilst working at Inchview helped me to be a better teacher.

I have lots of lovely memories of teachers, parents, janitors and children. Candlelit gym hall at Xmas with the whole school singing 'No Man is an Island'. Squashing 30 P1s in the minibus for our annual trip to Lanark Lanimers in June. Long-suffering Mrs Berry and Mrs Thomson driving and helping. WE all went to my modest family home for a tea party and games - great fun! The Scots Night - lots of boys in tartan bow ties and girls in tartan sashes dancing to a live band. Almost all parents attended and joined in the fun. Children and staff sang solos and read Scottish poems. Taking my energetic P7 class to skiing lessons at Hillend. They were all so brave and there were many talented skiers. They won the Novice Ski Award and we were so proud of them. They were a super class of friends. Dressing up at Halloween - especially the year we dressed up as Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and the year we dressed up as St Trinian's. Yellowcraigs! Always lovely because we were all there on our 'holidays'.



I was school secretary for 20 years, seeing second generations of the children, meeting the children every day and helping out with any problems. My favourite memories are of the trips to Yellowcraigs. The children had a great time, playing on the beach and going into the freezing cold water! I remember the trips to the zoo and pantomime - all part of the 'happy' task of being a school secretary. I feel sad to think that such a lovely school is no longer needed. It was a lovely set-up, being open plan, all on one level and so bright and welcoming to visitors.

**Nancy Thomson, Secretary 1980 - 2000**

I am sure the closure is very sad for the present staff and pupils. You are very lucky as I was to be part of the social history of Inchie. Good luck for the future. Thanks for the memories.

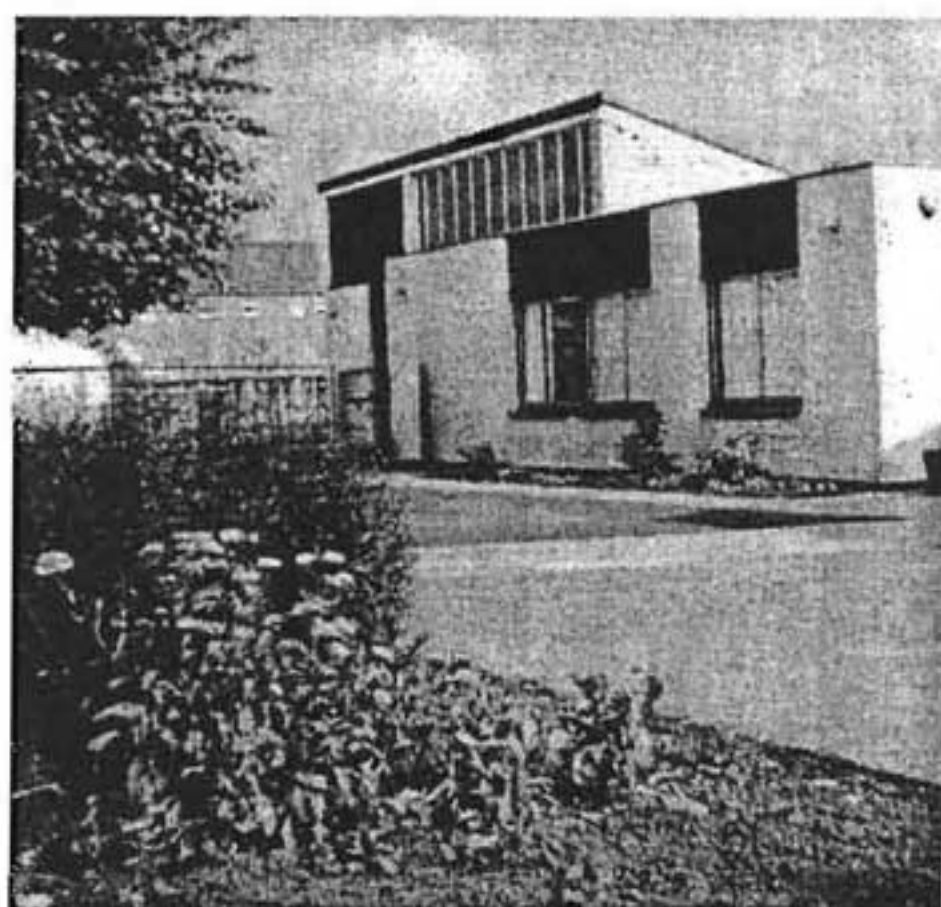
**Julie Cunningham, Teacher 1985 - 1990**

Inchview was a happy, worthwhile environment and working with the children gave me a lot of pleasure and satisfaction in the job I did. My favourite memory was of the 1988 trip to Yellowcraigs with the children. Inchview's last day will be a sad day for all concerned with the school.

**Christine Hunter Davies, Teacher 1988**



Photo Gallery 1  
70's & 80's





## **Sheila Inglis, Headteacher - (1990-1996)**

Inchview was a busy and lively School, where it was exciting to be Headteacher from 1990-1996. Every day was memorable, working with hard working staff and happy pupils. Special memories include visits to Yellowcraigs, the Brunton Theatre and sports afternoons. There were often good links with other schools and agencies. I hope this will be a successful new beginning in a new School building and wish everyone good luck.

### **Pupil Memories 1990's**

My experiences of Inchview are when I got on well with Miss Inglis and Mrs Richardson but my special times was all the fairs and days out with the school. All my seven children have been to Inchview and all are doing well. Myself, I used to take boys for football a long time ago. My favourite memory of Inchview is when Miss Inglis was Headmistress. We had a fund raising which I raised £250 for football team and school. My view on the school closure is that I'm so very, very sorry to see the school close. It is a school with great character and feelings.

**Raymond Fleming, Parent**

I remember Miss Bogie and Mr Napier were my teachers. My favourite time was in P7 as I felt a lot more grown up. I think it's bad it's closing as it's a good school.

**Darren O'Brien, Pupil 1992 - 1999**

I have lots of memories of Inchview School. So many I can't remember them all. I don't want them to close the school. It's good for the area left on its own.

**David Bell, Pupil 1993 - 2000**

I remember I used to get into trouble at school. My favourite memory is going to Edinburgh Castle with the school. I think it's a bad thing they are closing the school so young ones won't get the chance to come here.

**Steven Loughton, Pupil 1993 - 2000**

I have been involved with Inchview since my son started at Nursery, as a parent helper and went on to be chair of the School Board for 3 years. I have found the staff an inspiration to the point I now work in a local school as a classroom assistant. I always found Inchview a welcoming school. The staff always saw my son's potential and pushed to help him reach it. For which I will always be very grateful. I am very proud of my son and realise just how much credit goes to you all in helping me achieve this. I attended a small community primary school and know how special they are. Inchview will be remembered for all the right reasons and sadly missed.

**Gerry McDowall, Parent 1995 - 2003, School Board Chair Until 2001**

All I can remember was that it was fun here. It gave me a good start in life with good friends. I don't mind the school closing as long as the other school is just as good but I don't really understand why they are closing it down.

**Jackie Kelly, Pupil (Parent 2001 - 2003)**

### **Teachers Memories**

My favourite memories were of Yellowcraigs trips. Inchview taught me a lot about education, lots of fun and lots of heartache. I remember Christmas with candles in bottles round the tree and a small boy asking if I would play 'the moonlight sinatra' at the next assembly. The closure of Inchview brings the end of an era and I only hope that the children, parents and staff are happy in these days of the shifting sands of education.

**Mae M Purdie Teacher 1980 - 1998**

My experiences of Inchview were of teaching primary 1, primary 4 & 5 between 1990 & 1993. The two Headteachers were Miss Dougall & Sheila Inglis. The staff were always supportive and hard working. They always wanted the very best for all the children. My favourite memory of Inchview was the children, who were so enthusiastic about new subjects. I also enjoyed my first residential at Ratho and the children were up most of the night with excitement! I feel sad that the memories of the children at Inchview may be lost. I hope that the new school gives children what they need in terms of a caring environment where each is known and is special and where they are given many, many chances to succeed.

**Ruth Colley, Teacher 1990-1993**



I have many fond memories of the primary seven trips - One trip was to Ratho, where Jackie Rollo and I seemed to cook non-stop for the children. Another memory is of a wonderful week on Iona - living in the McLeod Centre with sheep right on the doorstep. Brilliant weather and an incredible trip to Staffa where we saw Fingal's Cave and puffins. Of Wiston Lodge and of a visit by Mrs Richardson and Miss McCrory who both abandoned us on a walk through a field when some cows came towards us. They left us trying to reassure the children that they weren't really in any danger despite the fact that Mrs R and Miss McCrory had leapt over the wall with amazing speed and agility. And of course who could ever forget our whole school trips to Yellowcraigs every summer.

**Anne Sandison, Teacher 1990**

I took my class to the zoo on a lovely sunny day. We had our picnic lunch as usual next to the play area. A Scandinavian Youth Orchestra were playing next to the Steading and the children gradually made their way over to listen. When it was time to head back for the bus, I realised I could only see half the class. The other half had made themselves comfortable sitting in between the band members! Inchview's closing makes me feel very sad at the passing of such a welcoming, friendly little school.

**Elsbeth Dickson, Teacher 1991 - 2003**



## Acknowledgements

Inchview Primary & North Edinburgh Family Learning would like to take this opportunity to thank the many pupils and staff, past and present who took the time to share their many memories of Inchview School over the last 30 years with us. We would also like to thank Miss Dougall for her contributions of stories and the many lovely pictures that she kindly lent us for this booklet.

Inchview & Family Learning would particularly like to thank Gina Whitelaw, Steven, Rebecca & Mhairi McLeod, The Hume Family, Janette McCue & John Loughton for their ongoing commitment & dedication to this project.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this project.

Sheila Laing  
Michelle McDougall

Family Learning would like to wish the staff of Forthview and all the children and their families a joyous & peaceful transition in to the new school and may you experience many more happy memories over the coming years and may you all look back on Inchview as a foundation for your future.

Best Wishes & peaceful times ahead,

Michelle McDougall

Finally, we, at Inchview, would like to thank Michelle MacDougall and Leslie Muldoon for their commitment and hard work. Without you both this book would never have happened. Each story in here is precious as is Family Learning in the City of Edinburgh. You help many of us tell our stories and hear the stories of others. In that process you gift us learning. I have learnt much from these stories about which parts of people's education stands the test of time. Thank you both for this gift.

Sheila Laing