



## History of Castlemilk High School – Outdoor Centre



In the 1880s, George Corson, an architect from Leeds in Yorkshire, had a house built, three miles outside the village of Gairloch, at *Carn Dearg*. The sole means of transport at that time was by horse and cart, so a coach house/stable was built in 1890. In 1891 a man called Alexander MacKenzie lived in the upstairs part of the coach house. He was the coachman, groom and gardener for the house at *Carn Dearg*. It is reputed that his ghost still haunts the building.

By 1915 ownership of *Carn Dearg* had passed to Charles Leonard Agnew. He was a stockbroker who came from Manchester.

Sometime later *Carn Dearg* was sold to a Professor Ogilvie from Edinburgh and in 1932 he gifted the house and the coach house/stable to the Scottish Youth Hostelling Association for use as a Youth Hostel. It is still open for business to this day.

In November 1967 Glenwood Secondary school rented the coach house/stable, from the Scottish Youth Hostelling Association, for £25 per year (£360 in today's money) with the intention of using it as an outdoor centre for pupils from Castlemilk.

During March 1968 £900 (£12,600 in today's money) was spent on making the building habitable for staff and pupils.

In October 1968 Glenwood Secondary school took the decision to buy the building and paid the princely sum of £450 (£6,300 in today's money) for outright ownership.

The outdoor centre came to be known affectionately as "The Croft". This is not strictly speaking an accurate reflection of the previous use of the building as a Croft is actually a small farm.

In 1990 Glenwood Secondary and Grange Secondary schools amalgamated to become Castlemilk High school. As part of that process ownership of the outdoor centre passed from Glenwood Secondary school to Castlemilk High school.

During 1994 the outdoor centre was extensively refurbished and it reopened in 1995 with upgraded facilities including new (indoor) toilets and showers for pupils and an additional staff bedroom.

The outdoor centre can comfortably accommodate 16 pupils and 4 members of staff.

The foresight of the Glenwood staff back in 1967/68 can only be marvelled at when you consider the magnificent facility that Castlemilk High can call its very own.

As of 2014 the outdoor centre has been in use for 46 years and somewhere in the region of 3000 pupils have benefitted from visiting the location.