

100 YEARS at West Street



Ewell Church of England School

1861 - 1961

One Hundred Years at West Street

THE STORY OF A VILLAGE SCHOOL

by

NORMAN R. STONE

St. Mary's Church of England Boys' School,
Ewell, Surrey.

1961

FOREWORD

One hundred and fifty years ago the Ewell National School came into being. Fifty years later the original building in Old Schools Lane was vacated in favour of that which now houses St. Mary's Boys' School in West Street. The school then consisted of Boys', Girls' and Infants' but in 1916 the girls and infants moved to more spacious quarters farther along West Street, leaving the boys in sole possession of the old building. It is the Centenary of that building which we are celebrating this year, and this booklet records some of the more important events and happenings concerning it since the first log book entry in 1862.

The school log books have been the chief source of information and it has been no mean task to sift and present the facts. Mr. Stone, with his long service as a teacher in the school and his keen interest in local history, was the obvious person to be asked to write the account. The school owes him a debt of gratitude for the time and energy he has given to the work.

Even after the State as a whole took over the responsibility for education in this country the Church played a great part in the teaching of the young and it still does. During the past century the link which exists between the church of St. Mary's and our school has been a strong one as the log book entries show. Owing to the amicable relationship which exists between the present Vicar, the Rev. V. P. Davis, and the staff and boys of the school, I think that the bond is as strong as ever. I wish to thank the Vicar for the help and encouragement given me during the short time I have been in charge of the school. He is the Chairman of the school's Board of Managers, to all of whom I would also express my thanks for their support and interest in the school's activities.

It would be impossible to mention all the people who have given valuable assistance in preparing for the Centenary celebrations. A list would include the present staff of the school, parents of present pupils and those former pupils who have responded to my appeal in the local press for photographs and other mementoes. In addition, I must thank Mr. R. A. Beaumont, a former pupil of the school, for the design on the cover of the booklet, Mr. J. W. Millsom who has done the printing, and Mr. S. Witkowski who has produced the photographs.

F. BELL,
Headmaster.

KEY TO PLAN

Italics indicate terms traceable in the log books.

Original Buildings dating from c. 1861.

1. *School Room* or *Main Room* for boys, with *School Room* for girls overhead. The lower room is now the hall while the upper one is used by Class 2.
2. *Infants' Department*. It originally extended right up to the hall from which it was divided by a curtain or screen. It is now used by Class 4.
3. *Small Class Room* fitted with a gallery. The gallery was removed in 1908 and the room is now the staffroom. Overhead is a small classroom once used by the girls. It has been called the *Lumber Room*, it has been used as a library, it has been used as a supplementary classroom, it has been used as a projection room and in the near future it is to be properly equipped with books and shelving and once again used as a library.
4. Headmaster's house, now the home of Mr. Smith, the caretaker.
5. Headmistress's house, now a private residence.
6. A passage from street to playground. Originally it was the boys' cloakroom and, from 1943 to 1957, was the school kitchen.
7. Former girls' cloakroom, possibly dating back to 1861. It is now used by Classes 2 and 5.
8. Lavatories, formerly for girls or infants, possibly dating back to 1861.
9. Dividing wall between the playground for boys and the playground for girls and infants. It was pulled down in 1934.

1883 *Extensions*

10. Babies' Room, now used by Class 1.
11. *New Class Room* with screened lobby now used by Class 3. Overhead is the present Class 5.
12. Cloakroom, now used by Class 4.
13. Shelter with corrugated iron roofing.

Recent Additions

14. A passage built in 1957.
15. The new kitchen, also built in 1957. At an unknown date the present kitchen and passage were walled off from the infants' room and converted into a cloakroom.
16. Cloakroom built in 1958. It is used by Classes 1 and 3 and takes the place of the cloakroom which was lost when the kitchen was built.

GOODSHIP & SAUNDERS' PREMISES

BOY'S
PLAYGROUND

GIRL'S & INFANT'S
PLAYGROUND

9

16

2

12

13

10

8

14

11

7

15

4

6

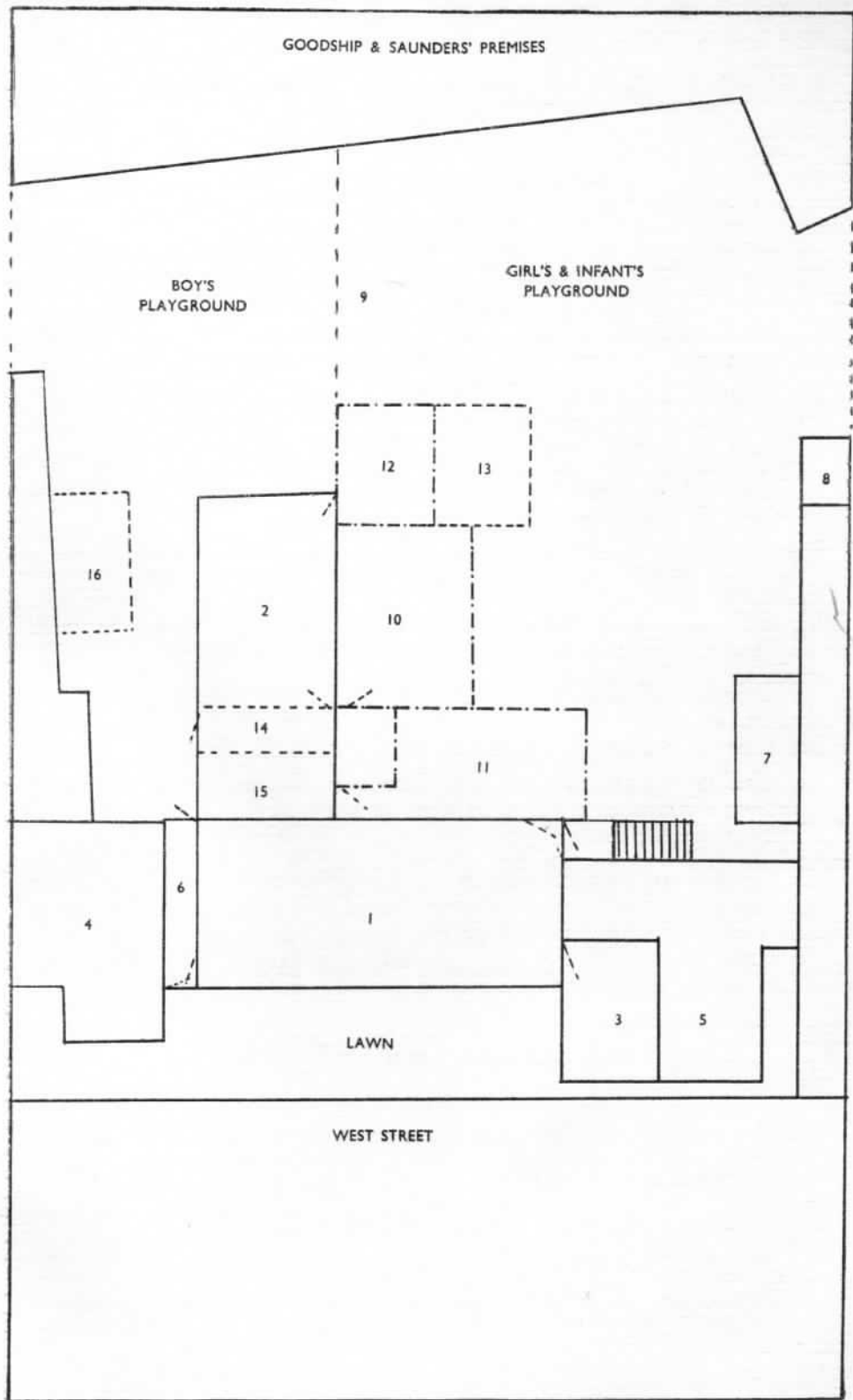
1

LAWN

3

5

WEST STREET



FOUNDATION BEQUESTS

In the hall of St. Mary's Church of England Primary Boys' School at Ewell is a wall tablet bearing this inscription:

EWELL PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

These school buildings were opened August 6th 1861, by Sir J. Rae Reid, Bart., in the presence of the LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER; the cost £3279, was met by a grant of £849,8 from the Government, by £804,10,10 from Brumfield's special dividend fund, and by individual contributions, including the very liberal donation of £610, from GEORGE TORR, esqre, of Garbrand Hall, and the gift of the larger portion of the site by the Revd. Sir GEORGE L. GLYN, Bart.: VICAR. "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord." Isaiah LIV.13.

To trace the origins of the school we can turn to Manning and Bray's *History and Antiquities of Surrey* and to the third volume of the *Victoria County History*. David White was an Epsom bricklayer. He died on 20th January, 1725 and left in his will £10 a year to educate the charity children of Ewell. Similar bequests were made for Abbots Langley in Hertfordshire and for Ashted and Leatherhead in Surrey. David White's tomb is in the churchyard of St. Martin's, Epsom.

In 1738 the Master of the Rolls held that these four grants were not justified as there were no local charity children, but a further gift of funds to purchase the site for a school in Epsom was diverted to Brayne's Charity School; this had been founded by a will made by John Brayne on 5th January, 1693. In 1751 Brayne's school began to receive £30 yearly. Some Old South Sea Annuities were then bought and a proportion of the grant was henceforth made to the other four parishes.

Another will, made by Thomas Brumfield on 19th February, 1773, gave £350 for the benefit of poor people who were not receiving alms. An investment in 3% Consols at £404 12s. 5d. produced an annual dividend of £12 2s. 8d., and five shares were purchased in the Sun Fire Office for educating ten poor children and for clothing six widows, the yearly income being about £25.

In 1788 funds were still insufficient to give full effect to the grants and the trustees decided to allow profits to earn interest. By 1802, when the trustees were dead, it was agreed to pay £70 a year to the four parishes, one of the new trustees for Ewell being Sir George Glyn of Glyn House. The other trustee was Thomas Calverley of Ewell House. According to *Greater London* which was published by Cassell in 1898, Thomas Calverley later built Ewell Castle in 1814; it is now a private school.

OLD SCHOOLS LANE, 1811—1861

Although the cottages which housed the Ewell National School are still standing in Old Schools Lane, little is known of this period. However, a book entitled *Surrey* was published by C. and J. Greenwood in 1823 and the writer states: "Here is a national school, at which are educated upwards of 100 children."

You may wonder what a National School was; let us look at Charles Birchenough's *History of Elementary Education* published by the University Tutorial Press. In 1790 the staff of the Male Orphanage Asylum at Madras went on strike. Dr. Bell, the resourceful principal, worked out a scheme of instruction by the senior pupils, and, on his return to England in 1797,

published: *An experiment in Education made at the Male Asylum at Egmore, near Madras. Suggesting a System by which a School or Family may teach itself under the Superintendence of the Master or Parent.*

In 1798 Joseph Lancaster was a poorly-educated Quaker teaching in a private school; by 1803 he thought that, in a school of a thousand children, the annual cost of education would be about five shillings per child. Lancaster was rescued from financial trouble, and the Royal Lancasterian Association—later, The British and Foreign School Society—was started in 1810; by this time about ninety-five of Lancaster's schools were in existence.

In the following year a sermon in St. Paul's "sounded the call to the Church" and thus was established *The National Society for promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales.* By 1816 they estimated that they could educate a child for four-and-twopence.

British and National schools both used the monitorial system under which groups of children stood around lesson sheets or sat at desks with slates and performed mechanical lessons by rote. While Lancaster, however, seems to have had a monitor of one sort or another for every possible duty, a National School had fewer monitors in a class, more of the work being undertaken by the master or his wife. The National Schools were thus more adaptable to change than their counterparts which tended to become hide-bound.

Robert Owen, who had become manager of his father-in-law's mills at New Lanark, had an infant school; a similar school was opened in London in 1818. Samuel Wilderspin was placed in charge of a second such school, most of the instruction being by means of set questions and answers. He founded more schools in each of which would be a series of forms in tiers—sometimes as many as ten; on these seats the entire school could be accommodated. As the master pointed to a map or other piece of apparatus he hoped that the mechanical answers given by the older children would slowly educate the younger ones. This structure, which resembled the rising tiers of an upper circle, was called a gallery.

On the whole it is correct to say that the gallery gave rise to the later stepped classroom while the monitors formed a precedent for the pupil teachers who succeeded them. This highly condensed summary should enable you to appreciate some of the things we shall meet.

One interesting report concerning Old Schools Lane appears in *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, 1846*, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the Inspector in question being the Rev. John Allen.

Schools under a Master and Mistress in which boys and girls are taught apart

	Boys	Girls
Ewell		
Present at time of Inspection	41	55
Unable to read at sight words of four letters	1	16
Able to read with ease	15	17
Writing On slates	—	14
Writing On paper	20	25
Arithmetic First Four Rules	10	7
Arithmetic Compound Rules	7	7
Arithmetic Proportion and Upwards	3	0
Numbers on books for last 6 months	55	60
Average daily attendance for last 6 months	40	47
Payments of the children		1d
Age of admission		5
Age of leaving		13

Annual Subscription	£68 19 6d
Annual Collections	£14 18 8d
Annual Produce of Endowment	£23 10 0d
School Fees	£12 0 0d
Other Sources of Income	£10 0 0d
Stipend of Master	£45 plus pence
Stipend of Mistress	
Stipend of Assistant Master or Mistress	£ 5 0 0d
Repairs	£ 3 15 3d
Furniture and Apparatus	£ 3 12 3½d
Books and Stationery	£ 3 18 8½d
Candles and Fuel	£13 5 2½d
Other Expenses	£ 3 0 0d

Children clean and orderly. Instruction in the Scriptures highly satisfactory. Composition of the older children remarkably good.

In another section headed "Infant Schools in rooms fitted with a Gallery" it is stated:

	Boys	Girls
Present at time of inspection	16	12
Unable to read at sight words of four letters	16	12

Other columns of the report are blank and the closing remark is: "A pleasing school."

WEST STREET, 1861—1961

When, in 1811, a National School was founded on the proceeds of the White and Brumfield bequests, Thomas Calverley made a grant which became available in 1860. Sir George's son, the Rev. Sir George L. Glyn, gave most of the West Street site, and a deed concerning the school was enrolled in Chancery on 16th May, 1860, and is now in the Public Record Office.

George Ayres, 1862—1868

Whether or not George Ayres was the foundation master at West Street is not known for certain, the first entry in the log book being dated 1st October, 1862; in this, Mr. Ayres merely records the quarterly examination of the scholars.

The buildings consisted of the large lower room for the boys, the large upper room for the girls, and the present Class 4 room for the infants. The infants' rooms extended beyond the present wall and covered the passage and the kitchen; it seems that there must have been a curtain where the serving-hatch wall now stands. The present Class 1 room was not built, the infants' windows thus being cut in what is now a dividing wall. These were bricked up in 1883 and the remains of the old window arches can still be seen. The headmaster lived in the house at the east end of the school while the head-mistress of the girls' school lived in the western house. These two buildings are now numbered 13 and 17 West Street, the former being the residence of the caretaker.

At that time Ewell was a village amid farms and fields, and absences are recorded for gleaning, for kicking the football along the village street on Shrove Tuesday, for Ewell Fair, for Epsom Race Week, for a ploughing match and for an outbreak of smallpox. The school might be closed for a temperance lecture or the annual supper of the Ewell Working Men's Bible Union. School workers included monitors, sweepers, firelighters and a pumper, and we learn of a "Lecture on Ancient Egypt—illustrated from the Monuments by the

Oxygen Lantern" and of a "Missionary Lecture with Dissolving Views". In connection with "the usual Scripture lesson" is mentioned the Revd. Sir G. Glyn while the Rev. T. Davidson, the Rev. B. Behr and the Rev. J. Salwey were probably curates. A boy's first job when he left school might be sheep- or bird-minding.

Grants were made by the Privy Council on Payment by Results, Mr. Lowe's Revised Code dating from that year. Although he was, perhaps, the one qualified teacher in the school and was assisted by monitors of not very high attainments, a master's salary was intimately related, not only to attendance but to the annual inspection and the children's achievements. The respective monitors for Classes 2, 3 and 4 were paid 1/6d. quarterly; the firelighter's quarterly remuneration was 2/6d.

In 1863 a monitor was expelled for dishonesty. Then another began to absent himself and after fourteen months the dishonest one had been promoted to "teacher". Perhaps it's just as well for the modern generation that payment by results is a thing of the past.

Up to May 1864 the school was conducted without a qualified assistant so, after the visit of Her Majesty's Inspector Mr. Brookfield, an assistant was appointed at a shilling a week and was examined at Epsom National School as a candidate for pupil teachership. On 13th June 1865 the school received a further satisfactory report which said: "No grant payable after deducting amount of endowment and pupil teacher's stipend."

It is, perhaps, interesting to read *Education in England*, written by W. Kenneth Richmond and published by Penguin Books in 1945. The writer paints a grim picture of the Revised Code, telling us that the capitation grant depended upon the proficiency of the children in the three R's at the annual examination; to a lesser degree it depended upon regular attendance. Nothing else mattered for the purposes of the grant and there was serious trouble for a teacher who had indulged in history or music to the detriment of the basic subjects.

No hint is given for the departure of Mr. Ayres but it is not impossible that he was worried; a comment can reveal much: "No holidays this week, the visit of the Inspector being so near at hand." Although Lowe had been driven from office in 1868 his Payment by Results code was still in force. Charles Birchenough, in his *History of Elementary Education*, attacks the code, asserting that grants were made to managers who were free to bargain as they liked with their staffs, and that sweated teachers carried responsibility which rightly belonged to the managers. Despite annual reports of "satisfactory" and "creditabile" by H.M.I. the Rev. T. D. Sharpe, George Ayres left the school on 25th September 1868.

Henry Clark, 1868—1872

Henry Clark began his headship on 5th October 1868 and came from Highbury Training College. This college is mentioned in Cassel's *Old and New London* and had its origin in a house in Mile End rented by Dr. Addington in 1783 for the training of Nonconformist ministers. Highbury Independent College had been opened in 1826 but in 1860 the site was sold to the Church of England and the training college established.

Mr. Clark, commenting on irregular attendance and ignorance, seems to have examined most of the children in less than a month. By 3rd November the evening school had increased from seven to twenty-one scholars; this apparently consisted of a Lads' and a Men's division. In December two boys broke into the infants' school and stole money from the Girls' Missionary Box; one was flogged and the other sent to the Boys' Refuge, Whitechapel.

For the first time we learn about the size of the school. In 1869 there were fifty-three boys on roll with an average attendance of about forty; three years later the average attendance was nearly sixty. The 1870 Education Act, which later brought so many changes, is referred to as "the New Education Act" and it impelled Mr. Clark to make a local survey; there were two hundred and eighty Ewell children between five and thirteen years of age. In the following January the attendance improved and Mr. Clark wrote: "The Education Act of 1870 is evidently influencing some parents."

We learn this about old Ewell:

3rd November 1868: Received this day from the Revd. Sir George Glyn the following copy of a minute of the Committee of the Schools:

March 23rd 1861

Resolved that the future scale of payments for children attending the Ewell Natl. School be as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Each child of tradesmen or small farmers | 6d. |
| 2. Each child of mechanics | 4d. |
| 3. Each child of gardeners, butlers, coachmen, etc. in regular employment as Gentlemen's Servants | 3d. |
| 4. For the first child of a labourer | 2d. |
| 5. For every additional child | 1d. |

We also learn this, the date being 25th November 1868: "Received a note from a Ewell Mechanic who objects to pay 3d. for his boy's instruction, while a Labourer pays only 2d."

And this: "Recommended school after the Christmas Holidays—the room having been whitewashed."

Other items which tell us of the past are a "Snowball battle at recess", a stag hunt, a Brick Yard Cricket Match, a music lesson "assisted by Mr. Morgan at the Harmonium", the absence of boys to pick acorns and to bind sheaves, and a lecture to the children at The King's Head Hotel. "Several Marsh boys" who were "absent to beat for rabbits on the preserves at Horton" came from what is now the neighbourhood of Green Lanes while the "Marsh Chapel-of-Ease" preceded the present All Saints' Church.

The gallery, which was situated in what is now the staffroom, seems to have corresponded very closely to Wilderspin's original conception: "The whole school had a Gallery Lesson on Church Catechism, . . ." Perhaps the most ambitious of these talks was given in 1870: "Land, Water, Seas, Gulfs, Islands, Peninsulas, and Isthmuses."

Also recorded are ten object lessons, typical ones being *Iron, Pens, The Oak and Baskets*. The most comprehensive was "Iron, Silk, Leather, Earthenware, Carpets"; it was given to the entire school! A. H. Garlick, B.A., headmaster of the Woolwich Pupil Teacher Centre wrote *A New Manual of Method*; it was republished by Longmans, Green in 1904. He says this: ". . . if the children have no opportunity of handling or watching the actual object which is being dealt with, the teacher will be giving an information lesson, rather than an object lesson." Advertised at the front of the manual is *Object Lessons in Geography* of which Mr. Garlick was co-author; it contains three hundred and three illustrations and one of Mr. Clark's object lessons was *The Beaver*. Can we wonder if newspaper critics are still in a muddle about education?

Professor John Adamson tells us something about object lessons in *A Short History of Education*. In 1690 John Locke wrote *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. It influenced a French philosopher, Jean Jacques Rousseau, whose *La Nouvelle Heloise*, written in ignorance, depicted the savage as noble. Another book *Emile*, urged a return to nature and visualised an ideal state in which half the males were pupils and the other half tutors;

women were educated to avoid abstract ideas and submit to men. Rousseau also preached the importance of studying child-mentality and abandoned his five children to a foundling hospital. *Emile* influenced the Swiss educationist Pestalozzi whose teaching led to the importance of the object lesson in the nineteenth century; he believed that children must use their senses in examining objects and that words were no substitute for the real thing. Another of Mr. Clark's "object lessons" was *Astronomy*. It is highly doubtful whether Mr. Clark had even a telescope in the classroom, and luckily for the modern child, a teacher no longer dares to use the glib formula of the so-called object lesson.

The writer has no intention of lightly dismissing the work of past teachers; they did a difficult job well. It was the method that was wrong, and we can turn to an inspector of the period for our information. Matthew Arnold's *General Report for the Year 1878* appears in *Reports on Elementary Schools 1852-1882*; the book was republished by Her Majesty's Stationery Office in 1910. "The doctrine of Pestalozzi for instance, may be excellent, and no one can say that it has not found ardent friends to accept it and employ it; and the result is that one sees a teacher holding up an apple to a gallery of little children, and saying: 'an apple has a stalk, peel, pulp, core, pips, and juice; it is odorous and opaque, and is used for making a pleasant drink called cider.'"

Nature study, geography and history were all taught but two remarks stand out to a teacher of to-day:

22nd November 1870: "Taught list of kings from William the Conqueror."

18th January 1871: "The First Class said their Geography well."

Up to 1870 the school was inspected by H.M.I. the Rev. T. D. Sharpe, but the first inspection by H.M.I. the Rev. J. Rice Byrne took place in 1872, the entry of 1871 bearing the signature: "T. H. Murray Browne, Inspector of Returns."

Mr. Clark's annual reports were good and the basic subjects appear to have been taught on completely formal lines. An English lesson is summarised: "Conjugation of the Verb 'to praise'. Passive Voice and Progressive Form", while a comment on arithmetic tells us: "Worked the boys in Multiplication by three figures." Other comments are: "Worked the boys up in Simple Subtraction"; "Worked up the Table of Personal Pronouns"; "The little boys require much working up; their notions seem confused"; "G. Waters must be worked up in Division". He doubtless was.

One mother apparently knew that the annual grant depended upon examination success and threatened to keep her boy away if a prize were not given him. Mr. Clark was equal to the occasion: "He is *not* one of the 15 boys who are to receive prizes; therefore no prize will be given him, notwithstanding the threat."

A reference to Captain Lempriere and Miss Vizard who taught the boys to sing *Daily, Daily* brings to mind *A Short History of Ewell and Nonsuch*; it was written by Cloudesley Willis who was a manager of the school in the 1930's. Every time there was an addition to the Captain's family he was said to add a new room to his home near Staneway House. In the end his abode became quite rambling and his memorial tablet is in St. Mary's Church.

Gunpowder mills, built early in the eighteenth century, still stood at Ewell Court. Although no remark was made by Mr. Ayres—presumably because the school was not affected—Cassel's *Greater London* mentions an explosion of 1865 which was felt for miles around. In 1870 powder was being supplied to France for the war against Prussia and there is this report by Mr. Clark for 26th October: "Accident at the Powder Mills. Accompanied Rayman Mitchell to his home." On 29th November he wrote: "Demand for

boys to make cartridges at the Powder Mill. Only two have at present thought it safe to go" and, on 29th February 1872: "Attendance injured by work for the farmers and the gun-powder maker." According to Willis, the mills were closed three years later.

Henry Clark resigned on 28th June 1872. For a fortnight the school was in the charge of James Hammond who conducted *Hammond's Commercial School* in the house now used by the Ewell Social Club; he charged day-boys a shilling a week. A later bowling green behind the house—it apparently became overgrown in 1959—was on the site of the old commercial school playground.

James Diprose, 1872—1877

On 13th July 1872, James Diprose, "Certificated Teacher of the Second Class", came from St. Margaret's Boys' School, Uxbridge; by September, fights seem to have broken out between Mr. Hammond's pupils and Ewell boys. On 16th October Dr. Behr complained "about one of these boys taking a football out of his playground yesterday noontime." Was Dr. Behr a member of Mr. Hammond's commercial staff? Was he related in any way to the Rev. B. Behr who, by this time, no longer figured in the log? The name is certainly an unusual one.

The pupil teachers included G. Baxter from Buckland National School near Dover and Jacob Tyler who left in January 1878 after having sat for a Civil Service examination. One pupil teacher, "neither truthful, obedient, nor diligent", refused to move desks, complained to his parents and was dismissed. The entry, dated 15th April 1873, is interesting because the master quotes an intercepted letter to the pupil teacher's parents; the Inspector concerned signed the log on the facing page but this time the letter writer had been dismissed by Sir George L. Glyn.

Saw the Revd. Sir G. L. Glyn Bart. in connection with . . . as he turned stubborn again on Sunday morning, and he has decided that he shall leave at once. In a letter written by . . . to his parents last evening and which I demanded to see, he says—"On Thursday we had a surprise visit from Mr. Byrne H.M. Inspector. Mr. Diprose was nearly caught, for the Inspector said 'Let me see your Time Table. Are your registers marked?' On Thursday night I refused to move the desks and also on Sunday morning. . . . I cannot see you buying me nice clothes to be spoilt and messed up in the way that mine are done with the school work." Further on he says "Since I have been here I have done all in my power to do what is right."

On one occasion two boys used a poker to burn holes in the floor and in the master's table; a monitor added to the fun by making the tongs red hot. It is rather surprising to note that another monitor, whose salary was £15 yearly, was Miss Fanny Williams. At this time there were about a hundred boys on roll.

The summer holidays are called "harvest holidays" and on 1st May 1873 the attendance is poor because the boys are out "maying". Another glimpse of the past is caught when we read: "Received my parchment from H.M. Inspector who took it away with him on May 13." That parchment was the teacher's certificate; were it taken away for reasons of discipline the results might be very grave. That Mr. Diprose was well regarded is evident from the report for 1875: "Considering how the school has suffered from illness its present condition does the master credit." In that same report we get another glimpse into mid-Victorian England: "My Lords do not allow a reduced number of attendances in the case of a Half Timer."



West Street Frontage.



Inside the Playground.

Photographs by S. Witkowski, A.R.P.S.



School Hall.



Class 2 Room.

Photographs by S. Witkowski, A R.P.S.



Class 3 Room.



Class 5 Room.

Photographs by S. Witkowski, A.R.P.S.



Class 1 Room.



Class 4 Room.

Photographs by S. Witkowski, A.R.P.S.

On the first day of 1875 the Agricultural Children's Act came into force and on 25th March the headmaster commented: "Lowest average since Christmas—cannot account for it, unless it be that the parents begin to see that they need not fear the consequences of the penalties of the Agricultural Children's Act as there is no one to see that its provisions are carried out."

Mr. Diprose was equally despondent on 27th April 1877: "Lowest attendance this week for over 2 years from no apparent cause unless it be that the parents think there is no reality in the New Education Act."

On August 3rd 1877: "Mr. Diprose took leave of the boys."

John T. May, 1877—1882

The school now came under the care of John T. May, "Certificated Teacher of the Second Class" and late headmaster of the Webber Row Board School; Thomas Tozer, a pupil teacher candidate under Mr. Diprose, remained as pupil teacher.

We encounter, for the first time, the term *assistant master* in connection with Henry Marks; he had just finished his pupil teachership at St. Mary's Boys' National School, Aylesbury, and remained for a year at Ewell from February 1878. The salary of his successor, W. Chestney from Holt National School, is given as £40 a year, while other assistant masters were J. Stapley from Tenterden and James Alderson from the Parish Church Schools, Halifax.

It was in Mr. May's time that Sir George L. Glyn retired. The new Vicar was the Rev. Thomas Bliss, and, mentioned in connection with scripture lessons, are probable curates: the Rev. F. Johnson and the Rev. W. Marle.

For January 13th 1882 there is this entry: "Thomas Tozer still away. I find the work come rather heavy, not the number of boys, but the having to teach the five upper standards with monitors who require constant supervision and are then not able to teach the Grammar and Geography."

The last comment for John May's headship is dated 10th March: "Master absent. Mr. Ham C. M. took charge morning and afternoon." The writing is rather irregular and it is possible that the deputy's name was *Hann*. There is no clue to his identity.

Samuel Buxton, 1882—1914

On 13th March 1882 Samuel Buxton started on probation and was appointed master on the 28th; he remained for thirty-two years. Cupboards were put in order and summaries were found to be neglected, the annual report not paying very much tribute to "the outgoing Teacher."

Thomas Tozer passed "1st Class (Special)" in the pupil teachers' examination while James Alderson was offered a place in the Civil Service. On 25th July 1882 Tozer was appointed assistant master at £50 yearly; in the following year he sat for admission into the Excise and resigned in March 1885.

Mr. Buxton had only been here a year when additions were made to the premises; a wall tablet records the event:

Three class rooms were added to these schools in 1883, at a cost of £915, contributed as follows.

£500	By Thos. Brumfield's Charity
£380	„ Individual Contributions
£ 35	„ The National Society
<hr/>	
£915	
<hr/>	

From a file at the Ministry of Education we know that Herbert D. Appleton of 264 Wool Exchange, Coleman Street, sent a plan of the additions to the Secretary of the Education Department on 23rd November 1882; it is stated that the school accommodated sixty boys, sixty girls and fifty infants.

The new classrooms were first used on 2nd July 1883, the arrangement of the school being recorded in the log. Standard I, First Division, was in the care of A. Flynn, a temporary monitor, and was taught in the *School Room*; this is now the hall. Standard I, Second Division, was in the *Small Classroom* and was taught by A. Gordon, a first-year pupil teacher. On 29th August, 1892, it is established that this small classroom was the present staffroom: "Broader seats have also been fitted on the Gallery in Small Class-room"; this statement could not refer to any other room in the school. Standards II and III were taught by the assistant master, Thomas Tozer, and by a monitor, in the *New Class Room* now used by Mr. Enticknap and Class III. Standards IV, V, VI and VII were in the charge of Mr. Buxton in the hall.

The infants' school now lost some of their windows because an outside wall had become a party wall. The writer has heard from old boys that their additional room, now used by Miss Gentry and Class I, was used for five-year-olds. Over Mr. Buxton's *New Class Room* alongside the hall was built the present Class 5 room used by Mr. Rees; it must be remembered, however, that in 1883 this upper room was still part of the girl's school.

Queen Victoria's jubilee was celebrated by two days' holiday in June 1887 and, on 27th June, there was a holiday for the *Village Club Feast*. Two school songs of this period are of interest: *Upon a Farm no Idle Hands* and *Whistling Farmer Boy*.

For 19th July 1888 there is this: "Mr. Gadesden visited and inspected the screen dividing Boys' from Infants' room with a view to suggesting a plan for rendering it more impervious to sound." It may have been on this occasion that a stout wooden folding screen was built. It was put to good use in 1960 when Mr. Smith, the caretaker, made four physical training equipment boxes. To-day, in place of the screen, are the wall and serving hatches of the kitchen.

Three volumes of *The Ewell Parochial Magazine* have come to the writer's hands through the courtesy of Mr. John Dent, the Borough Librarian. From them we learn that A. W. Gadesden, mentioned in the previous paragraph, had succeeded to the treasurership of Ewell National Schools when Sir George L. Glyn resigned on 2nd August 1883. Sir George died in November 1885, Sir Gervas succeeding to the title. We also learn that Mr. Buxton was the honorary secretary for the Ewell Committee for Technical Education; the Parochial Room was to be used and classes would embrace carpentry, horticulture and dressmaking. In the issue for December 1892 it was stated that £25 was needed.

In 1889 the school log records that a half holiday was given on 11th July when the Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital was opened by the Duchess of Teck, mother of Queen Mary the consort of King George V. In 1892 ten boys were admitted to the school from The Epsom Union Workhouse and it was on 13th June that year that H. Blanchett commenced as pupil teacher. Six years later he passed first class in the Queen's Scholarship Examination and entered St. John's College, Battersea. There were other pupil teachers as well in the late nineteenth century; one failed to pass a scholarship and another did no holiday work and had his indentures cancelled.

Thomas Millard Shingler came to Ewell as assistant master in 1892; he had been a pupil teacher at Madeley National Schools, Shropshire and assistant in Bridgford Academy, Nottinghamshire. In 1894 he passed London matriculation and a year later gained his B.A., his place being filled on 11th November 1895 by Thomas William Owen from Farnham, West Street Board School. Mr. Owen was to serve the school until his retirement in 1933.

More alterations to the school seem to have been made in 1893. The annual report, copied on 11th July, contained a threat: "My Lords have allowed payment of the Grant on the understanding conveyed in your letter dated the 28th ult. that the defects in the premises which H.M. Inspector pointed out in his special Report will be remedied with as little delay as possible. . . . H.M. Inspector also reports that the playground accommodation is insufficient. I am to add that My Lords cannot as suggested give any undertaking that the present requirements of the Department are final."

Now we can turn to the July number of the parochial magazine which had been published a week or two earlier: "The Report of H.M. Inspector of Schools has not yet reached us from the department, but a communication has been sent with regard to certain defects in the School Premises, to remedy which will require much anxious thought, and it to be feared, considerable expense. It should be remembered that this is the first time that any such objections have been raised with regard to the arrangements at the Ewell Schools."

In the August issue we read: "The requirements of the Education Department have been thoroughly considered, and Mr. Searles-Wood, architect, of Sutton, has been requested to draw out plans for the necessary alterations."

In September: "The plans for the alteration of the National Schools in accordance with the new requirements of the Educational Department have been drawn up by the architect, and forwarded for the approval of the Department. They will unfortunately entail a very heavy outlay, and are the subject of much anxious consideration by the Committee, that the children of Ewell may have continued to them the same full religious teaching that they have hitherto enjoyed, which can only be secured by the preservation of the Schools to the Church of England."

In October the Rev. J. Thornton informed his readers: "The plans for the alterations at the Schools to meet the requirements of the Education Department are still under consideration, and in due time will be brought before the notice of the parishioners."

Alterations are not mentioned in the November and December numbers and we must now turn to the file at the Ministry of Education; on 6th November 1893 it mentions the Rev. John Thornton in connection with revised plans, elevations and sections. On 8th January 1894 we read in the school log: "During holidays new fire-grates have been fixed in school room and clear glass fitted in the windows." The Ministry file reveals that in December 1894 H. D. Searles-Wood, F.R.I.B.A. certified that alterations had been carried out. Obviously, some research at the Ministry is necessary to discover exactly what these alterations were.

The link between church and school had been maintained continuously by regular visits, and it seems that Rev. John Thornton had taken the place of the Rev. Thomas Bliss in September 1889. With the help of the parochial magazine we can fill in some of the gaps. A school manager in the middle and later eighties was the Rev. W. T. Pilter; he had been appointed to the curacy of Ewell in March 1883 and had served in Jerusalem "to train young natives of Palestine for the Ministry." He had succeeded the Rev. J. Peck who had only served in Ewell for four months and who is first mentioned in the school log on 20th October 1882. The log also refers to the Rev. J. B. Wane as curate. The October number of the magazine for 1892 informs us that the Rev. Albert Low resigned from the curacy in September and was succeeded by the Rev. George Herbert Preston from New Zealand. With the building of All Saints' Church in West Ewell another curate was found to be needed, the Rev. E. J. Akehurst from Weybridge coming to reside here in June 1893. All these names are noted in the log together with that of

another curate, the Rev. G. R. S. Murray who is first noted on 29th November, 1894, and who, according to the magazine, was appointed Vicar of Davidstow, Cornwall in August 1898. Mr. Poole then served for a few weeks and the Rev. E. V. Bond was appointed on 8th December. A probable curate of thirty years before, the Rev. J. Salwey, is noted in December, 1892, as Vicar of Broxbourne.

The parochial magazine reveals yet another of Mr. Buxton's duties for, in the issue for September, 1899, this notice appears: "All applications for Apprenticeships under Fendall's Charity should be made on Forms provided for the purpose, which may be obtained from Mr. Buxton at Ewell Boy's School." From the position of the apostrophe we may wonder whether the parish printer thought there was only one boy at the school.

The new century opened with the death of Queen Victoria. A grant was made for a museum and a new harmonium—the last record for a new harmonium was dated 11th February, 1869—and it is in 1901 that we find the first of many complaints about noise in the adjoining infants' and girls' departments. By this time Mr. Thornton had been succeeded as Vicar by the Rev. R. C. Hunt; as we have seen, the Rev. E. V. Bond was curate. In 1903 Miss Maud Newsome of the boys' department, who had come from St Osyth National School, Colchester, was absent under doctor's orders on 21st January. There is a remark by Mr. Buxton about the Vicar who, resembling Poo-Bah, was not only Correspondent but Chairman of the Managers as well: "Mr. Hunt suggested that I should write to Miss Newsome, and suggest that she resign, and seek a post in quite a country school. He added that this school is quite against anyone with nerves." Two months later the Diocesan Inspector—presumably the Inspector of the previous year: the Rev. W. Bainbridge Bell—made his annual report and commented on "the noise in the playground making both questions and answers frequently inaudible." Mr. Buxton valued "this independent testimony to the difficulty of conducting this school" yet dismissed the noise at the inspection as a trifle when compared with "the distraction caused by barn dances, bell drill, noises overhead, etc. of which I have complained so frequently and uselessly to the Managers."

It was that same Diocesan Inspector who asked Standards II and III the dimensions of the Ark of the Covenant and found they could not answer; Mr. Buxton writes: ". . . neither could I without reference." He asked the teacher not to attach importance to details but to apply the Scriptures to daily life. On 13th May, Miss Newsome resigned.

In 1903 Charles P. C. Lewis came from Derry Hill National School, Calne, and stayed for five years; in 1904 Phillip J. Collins from St. Martin's National School, Dorking, and Ralph B. Manley from Wellington British School, Somerset, both came and departed, and, by 1905 Ewell was advertising for a schoolmistress. Mr. Colborne of Shirley was appointed in April but told Mr. Buxton that he had found a better job. Three months later W. C. Brodie, late headmaster of the Cumberland Industrial School, started work but was absent when the school reopened on 4th September. The relevant entry is, perhaps, the saddest one in the entire log: "At play-time I enquired at the Coffee Tavern, where he had been staying, whether they had heard from Mr. Brodie. They had received a telegram on Friday last asking them to put him up for a fortnight. At 11.15 I received a letter from Mr. Brodie's brother informing me that Mr. W. C. Brodie died early on Sunday morning from the effects of poison self-administered."

The writer has not discovered what the Coffee Tavern was or where it was situated but the following advertisement appeared in The Ewell Parochial Magazine in January 1883.

COFFEE TAVERN

There will be *Cookery* for the *Sick* every Tuesday and Thursday, from 12 to 1.30 p.m.

TuesdayPuddings and Beef Tea

Thursday.....Roast Mutton

Tickets procurable at the Coffee Tavern, to be filled up and given in by FIVE O'CLOCK THE DAY BEFORE.

Beef Tea only at Five P.M.

PRICES:

		s.	d.
Meat (about 4-oz.) and Vegetables	0	6	
Beef Tea, one pint	1	0	
Pudding	0	3	

Any quantity may be ordered, and will be charged at the same rate.

A supply teacher was appointed but left on October 6th 1905, and it was on that date that Mr. J. Chuter Ede, who was later to make his mark as a politician, was engaged as assistant master at £90 a year. In the following year two more assistants came and went and, on 29th October 1906, Miss Esther Daniels was transferred from the infants' school. Two days later Mr. Chuter Ede resigned.

On 2nd May, 1904, Mr. Buxton underlined in red ink his complaint that salaries had not been paid, and in February of the following year he sent an applicant's form to the Correspondent. This official, as we have seen, could be the Vicar but was, at this time, Mr. Theodore Bell; he paid teachers' wages and, at the annual inspection, stood between inspector and teachers and passed a copy of the report to the school. Two of Mr. Buxton's comments are: "Mrs Cotton, representing Mr. Cotton, who represents Mr. Bell (Correspondent) paid Teachers' Salaries this morning." "Circumlocution stands in the way of dealing promptly with applications."

On 3rd. November, 1906, Mr. Theodore Bell recommended the appointment of a woman teacher but two days later Mr. Buxton called on the Chairman of the Managers—presumably the new Vicar: the Rev. W. Weston—who agreed that they did not want another woman teacher and that a succession of temporary teachers was to be deprecated. On 3rd December Tobias Martindale started as assistant but left ten months later when he found that he could obtain five pounds more yearly on maximum salary in Yorkshire.

It was in July, 1907, that "grossly indecent writing" was seen on the bridge of West Ewell Station and the boys of the school seem to have come under suspicion. Harry Mitchell, however, had observed the real culprit who had, unfortunately for himself, also used the words *cave canem*. Guilt was established when the father of the Latin student told Mr. Buxton that his son, who attended a private school in Epsom, had used the sentence at home. Not for nothing is there a proverb: "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

A piano still does not seem to have been in regular use, even if one was used at all, for, on 16th October, 1909 it is stated: "The school Harmonium was tuned today." A newspaper cutting records that a few months previously on 14th April the Old Boys of Ewell National Schools had held their first reunion, the presentation to the headmaster being made by H. Blanchett.

We have noticed that Blanchett entered St. John's Battersea, in 1904; in 1911 he was to be placed in the First Division of the London B.A. final examination.

From *Report of Ewell Parochial Charities, 1950* and from the *Surrey Teachers' Bulletin*, May 1958, we learn that Henry Blanchett died on 1st November 1949, a retired schoolmaster. His will was dated 18th July, 1947 and left one hundred pounds for the old and infirm people of Ewell. It also left a sum of money to be spent on gift books; these books are presented to boys born in and resident in the Ewell Court, Ewell, West Ewell and Stoneleigh wards. They must reach the age of fourteen during the year and apply to the Divisional Education Officer by 31st May.

The death of King Edward VII is noted in the school log in 1910 and on 7th June a local scoutmaster asked Mr. Buxton for a holiday for those scouts who would be on duty at a West Ewell fete in aid of the church room. The scoutmaster was told that the boys' first duty was to be at school.

During the Christmas holidays in 1898 the playground had been asphalted and a shelter erected; as part of the playground was still walled-off for the girls and infants, that shelter cannot have been the one outside the present Class 4 cloakroom but was probably the structure at the end of the playground. It stands beside the disused lavatories which are now used as a caretaker's store.

It must have been at the beginning of the century that the chimneys were strengthened by the tie-rods and bands which are still to be seen, for, in October 1902—three months before the Vicar told Mr. Buxton that the school was quite against anyone with nerves—Mr. Buxton told the Vicar that the chimneys were leaning inwards.

On 5th February 1904 H.M.I. Mr. J. C. Cohill made his second red-ink note concerning the bad state of the building and in January 1908 Messrs. Goodship and Saunders, who still undertake contract work for the school, removed the gallery from the small classroom; the next day they found the floorboards were rotten.

In that same January, according to the Ministry file, the Surrey County Council informed the Board of Education that the managers would apply for a loan to enable their school to accommodate boys only and that the Council were negotiating for a site for the girls and infants; in May the Board informed the Council that if alterations were not carried out in accordance with Article 18 of the Code the school would cease to be recognised! In August 1909 the Council approved the idea of a boys' school and said that particulars of the other sites would be sent in due course.

On 28th October Mr. Buxton recorded that it was ten years since the buildings had been decorated and in December he passed the log book to the Rev. W. Weston for the extraction of entries concerning the premises. A year later, in November, Mr. Buxton wrote: "I have seen animals better cared for than we in this school are" and, in December, Mr. Owen and Mr. Spikesman tried to open a window and pulled it out of its frame.

The file at the Ministry reveals that in November 1911 the Board asked for the intentions of the Surrey County Council regarding the transfer of Ewell National C. of E. School and suggested that the premises be mortgaged for thirty years and turned into a public elementary school; in 1912, after more argument, the Board informed the Council that the whole of the Brumfield accumulations could be used for the boys. A public enquiry was held in the old Lecture Hall in Ewell High Street and, on 31st October and 6th November, there seems to have been a "free-for-all." Log book statements were given a public airing and two hundred and seventy-five Ewell parents supported the managers and asked that the church school continue. One witness said that West Ewell had sprung up in consequence of building the asylums while another said that Mr. Kendal had told her that if people did not do as the

gentry wished they would take away the village nurse. The National Society is still in existence and, nearly forty years later in 1951, it was asking for money and prayers to build even *more* church schools.

On the site of the Lecture Hall and of the once-adjoining Congregational Church—both buildings were demolished in 1939—there now exists the peaceful *Gertrude Longhurst Garden*.

Arthur Henry Spikesman, who helped Mr. Owen pull a window out, had been trained at Goldsmith's College and had come in July 1908 from Wallington Church of England School; he remained until 1911. During the three years from early 1911 to early 1914 twelve more teachers were engaged for short periods. One of them, Cyril V. Jenkins, was later appointed Divisional Executive Officer for the Central Division and showed his affection for the school on frequent visits. F. A. Garner left to become headmaster at Bisley Church of England School and Reginald James Wood assumed the headship of Eden's Orphanage, Bolton. Of another teacher these words were written in 1912: "Mr. . . . s' lessons in History, Geography and Nature Study present scenes of confusion."

The danger of allowing indiscriminately-chosen persons before children was shown on 18th November, 1912 when a woman supply teacher in the infants' school was taken home drunk.

Two further assistant masters were engaged before Mr. Buxton retired. Born in 1882 and trained at Bangor College, David William Jones, who started on 26th January, 1914, had been a teacher at Lincoln North District Boys' Department. The second master was engaged a fortnight later: Maynard William Edwin Hilling, born in 1890, trained at Reading University College, and a pupil teacher from Powerstock Church of England School, Dorset. These two men, together with a woman whom we have still to meet, were to become something of a legend in the village.

The Rev. J. Wallace had succeeded the Rev. W. Weston as Vicar in 1912. From 1907 to 1916 the curates who are mentioned as giving Scripture lessons to the boys are: the Rev. C. H. B. Trollope, the Rev. A. L. Watt, the Rev. E. H. Strand, the Rev. C. F. Ford and the Rev. G. W. Warmington.

During the spring and summer of 1914 the headmaster was taken ill and David Jones acted in his place. He tells us how the classes were arranged. He took Standards VI and VII, sharing the *Main Room*, or hall, with Mr. Owen who taught Standards IV and V. Mr. Hilling was in *Classroom A*—now Mr. Enticknap's room—teaching Standards II and III. The staffroom was then called *Classroom B* and was used by Miss Daniels and Standard I. On 26th January 1915 Mr. Jones wrote: "For the purpose of facilitating the teaching in the Main Room, I am suggesting to the Managers the fixing of another Curtain in the Main Room. This would also minimise distractions which are so inevitable when four classes are working side by side."

Samuel Buxton died in 1916 and was buried in Chislehurst on 19th July. In 1909 he had made this entry in the log: "I desire to place on record my great appreciation of the hearty support I have received from all members of the Staff, in conducting the work of the school."

David William Jones, 1915—1945

On October 1st 1915 David Jones assumed the headship, the appointment being backdated to 23rd August. The first World War was in progress but, while Mr. Hilling joined the East Surrey Regiment in December and was to serve in India, Mr. Jones, who also volunteered, had his enlistment deferred under the Derby Scheme. By April 1916 the "war staff" comprised Mr. Jones and Mr. Owen, Miss Daniels who had been transferred from the infants in 1906, and a newcomer, likewise transferred from the infants: Miss Gwendoline Keatch, born in 1889 and trained at St. Gabriel's College, Kennington.

The boys numbered about a hundred and fifty and were divided into seven standards and four classes. On 25th May, 1916, the old infants' room became part of the boys' school, and on 22nd June the new council schools for the girls and infants were at last formally opened. 1916 was the year in which Lord Kitchener died and John Travers Cornwell achieved fame by remaining on duty in time of danger; both events are noted in the log.

In April 1917 the boys were in full possession of the former infants' and girls' rooms, and school gardening began under Mr. G. H. Godard in the following February. The plot of land lay alongside the new schools; it must have formed part of what is today the girls' playground. Several entries refer to C. H. Middleton; he was then supervisor under the Surrey Education Committee and lived to become nationally famous for his broadcast talks on gardening. Two related items of interest are the gathering of horse chestnuts in 1917 "for the Ministry of Munitions" and the collection and despatch of the local blackberry crop in the following autumn.

A few supply teachers were engaged during the war period and, on March 1919, Miss Daniels, now Mrs McNamara, resigned after more than twelve years' service. From July, 1918, Mr. Jones had served in the 5th Middlesex Regiment, the acting headmaster being W. E. G. Ayling from St. Paul's Boys' School, Addlestone. In the April of 1919 both Mr. Jones and Mr. Hilling resumed their duties; from now on, these two, with Miss Keatch, were to form the backbone of the school until the retirement of Mr. Jones in 1947. Mr. Owen remained until 1933.

A woodwork class, which continued until reorganisation in January 1939, was started in October 1919; L. P. Roberts, a Surrey staff instructor, taught the boys in the old infants' room. The memorial tablet in the hall to the Old Boys who fell in the war was unveiled on 12th May, 1920, and more information is given on the previous state of the school by the entry of 7th June: "Windows upstairs have been made to open and plain glass inserted; this is a great improvement in supply of light and air."

Swimming instruction began in 1921. There were no baths at Epsom then and, for the first year, we find that permission was received "from Mr. Stoddart, Ewell Court, to use his bathing place for school swimming class." In subsequent years the class travelled by rail to Sutton and naturally used East Ewell Station; West Ewell also received attention. In 1922 five boys were interviewed by the station master after they had used the railway sweet machines. Their mechanical knowledge seems to have been excellent but they had employed token coins from the school.

Sir Gervas Glyn, son of Sir George L. Glyn, died in July 1921, Arthur Glyn assuming the title. As a manager he took an active interest in the school and we find, from the comment for 15th September 1922, that he might even observe a lesson in the classroom. History talks were given by him and he organised many visits to London, most of which seem to have ended at the Old Vic. Holiday visits were planned to Henley Fort Camp near Guildford, and one item reveals much: "There was no swimming instruction today owing to Sir Arthur Glyn being away from home." No adequate assessment can be made of what the schools of England owe to such men as this.

Another manager was Mrs. A. R. Laird who is still with us. She was interested in pottery and the boys were invited to have their work fired in her kiln.

Yet another manager was W. Melmoth Walters whose funeral was held on 23rd November, 1925. He had been a manager of the school since the foundation at West Street in 1861.

During the summer holidays of 1922 the screen was erected in the present Class II room upstairs and a new floor was laid in the hall. Another extract reads: "Removal of platform from Lumber Room." This can only refer to the small room on the first floor; with the advent of our centenary we hope that this will soon be equipped as a first-class library.

Immediately after the war Mr. Jones again looked after Standards VI and VII in the present hall but Mr. Owen, in charge of Standard V, went to the old infants' room. Miss Keatch taught Standards I and II in the smaller of the upstairs rooms while Mr. Hilling taught Standards III and IV in the larger. In 1924 the school was reorganised into five classes for the seven standards and, from now on, there were more teachers engaged for temporary periods.

School caps were distributed on 16th November, 1925. Although they bore the letters *E.B.S.*, their colours were scarlet and dark navy, not the red and black of today. In January 1926 two members of the woodwork class completed an honours board for the school and in 1933 our official title became: *Epsom, Ewell C. of E. School*; it was in August of that year that Mr. Owen retired at sixty-five years of age after having served the school for thirty-eight years. His place was taken by Alan James Blundell, R.H.S., who is still remembered by older people in Ewell for his interest in football. Also with us at that time was Miss Sarah Jefferson who had come in 1929 and was to retire in 1939 at the age of sixty-three.

In 1934—the year in which the old dividing wall between the former boys' and girls' playgrounds was pulled down—new schools were opened at Ruxley Lane and Stoneleigh and, as a result, the number on roll fell from some two hundred and forty to about a hundred and ninety. With the opening in 1939 of Ewell Central School, as Ewell County Secondary School at Danetree Road was then called, Ewell C. of E. School was turned into a junior boys' school, some of the older scholars being transferred. Woodwork was now discontinued and Class V occupied the handicraft room; the main room on the ground floor became a hall. The entry in the log, even though it seems to have been hastily made, still displays the headmaster's glee: "Class V occupied the former Handicraft Room. As a result this former classroom (the Main Room downstairs) will become a Central for the first time."

Mr. Jones's headship extended over two world wars, and, as we recall only too well, the second began in 1939. Gardening continued through the early days and competed for attention with air raid warnings, gas mask drill and the Children's Overseas Reception Scheme. Mr. Blundell was seconded to Danetree Road in 1941; Sir Arthur Glynn and Mr. Owen died in the following year. School dinners commenced on 12th May 1943 with Mrs. Peat as the organiser. The second half of 1944 is recalled for its doodle-bug alarms and for hurried journeys to the shelters, and by 1946 the three teachers of long standing were being assisted by people on supply and by ex-service trainees.

During Mr. Jones's service as headmaster, the Rev. J. Wallace had been followed as Vicar by the Rev. W. O. Edwards in 1922. Then there was the Rev. E. C. Usherwood in 1926 and the Rev. C. G. Holland in 1935. In 1945 the Rev. V. P. Davis became Vicar and is still rendering valuable service to the school. Curates whose names can be traced are the Rev. Paget Crofton in 1920, the Rev. C. Hughes in 1923, the Rev. G. M. Jukes in 1932, the Rev. R. Russell in 1937 and the Rev. F. Willmott in 1942.

On 25th July 1947 both school and Old Boys gathered together to pay tribute to David Jones after thirty-two years of work in Ewell. He lies buried in St. Mary's churchyard.

Cecil Hobbs, 1947—1956

Cecil Hobbs took charge of the school on 21st November, 1947. The period was a difficult one for a teacher. The war ended two years previously and the 1944 Education Act was in process of being implemented. Education entered a period of transition but Hobbs mastered the situation and made few changes. The seeds which he then sowed are now bearing fruit.

He came to a school with a very mixed staff. Miss Keatch and Mr. Hilling were looking forward to retirement, and a confusion of students and supply teachers in September finally resolved itself into the headmaster, the two older teachers, R. E. Grayer from Wandsworth Training College and Norman R. Stone from Cooper's Hill. Both the last-named had entered teaching by the so-called *Emergency Training Scheme*; by this plan it was hoped that a sufficient number of teachers would be forthcoming to replace those who had stayed on past retiring age to serve the schools during the war.

Mr. Grayer's resignation took effect from 30th August, 1948, when he went to Lower Mitcham County Primary School; he was replaced by Mr. R. J. Frost from Stoneleigh West who was to make his mark in teaching the top class.

By March, 1949, the school had acquired a cine projector, a film strip projector and a radio-gramophone, all of which are in regular use and add greatly to the interest of certain lessons.

In July, 1949, Mr. Hilling retired after thirty years of continuous service and Miss Keatch left us in September after thirty-three years. On each occasion the school assembled, not only to present them with material tokens of its regard, but to wish them happiness in a rest which they had earned so well.

On 30th August of that year we welcomed Miss J. Gentry who is still with us and whose enthusiasm for nature study has influenced many a boy, Terence C. Jackman who fostered whatever musical talent might be latent in the school, and R. D. Ellis who stayed for a year before proceeding to Effingham. A temporary member of the staff who made himself popular in his year at Ewell was S. J. N. Friend who, in October, 1951, became headmaster at Lower Kingswood. He was succeeded by Mr. G. Rees from Epsom County Secondary School.

While Hobbs was headmaster the name of the school was again changed, this time to *St. Mary's Church of England Primary Boys'*. In April, 1954, the headmaster was taken suddenly ill and for a year his place was filled by Mr. Frost. After resuming duty Hobbs retired in October, 1956, later returning to teaching but finally collapsing in October, 1958. He, too, lies in St. Mary's churchyard.

Reginald James Frost, 1956—1960

Mr. Frost was appointed by the managers to take over the headship in October, 1956. Under the impact of his genial personality the school acquired new cupboards, new desks, new floors and a tape recorder. His organising ability was also evident in the summer of 1957 when twenty-two boys enjoyed a week's school journey to the Isle of Wight.

In October, 1957, a cloakroom, separated by a dividing wall from the old infants' room of years before, was turned into a properly equipped kitchen with serving hatches. Ovens were transferred from a side passage and con-

fusion around a table in the hall became a thing of the past. This was much appreciated by Mrs. Cosgrove, Mrs. Hogsden and Mrs. Mason who have for so many years formed the regular canteen helpers, Mrs. Hogsden having taken the place of Mrs. Page who succeeded Mrs. Peat. Later, a new cloakroom for Class I was built in the playground.

Two of Mr. Frost's many ideas now promise to become annual events. In 1960, when the local music festival was cancelled, a concert was given in the school hall, and the first Bring-and-Buy Sale took place in 1958.

It was during Mr. Frost's term of office that we welcomed Miss Talbot as art and handicraft teacher, Mr. Enticknap from Coventry who has introduced recorder playing and who replaces Mr. Jackman, and Mrs. I. Carpenter who became school helper and who still ably undertakes the duties previously carried out by Mrs. C. Laver from April 1946 to September 1954.

Mr. Frost retired in the summer of 1960 and now lives at Lyndhurst. He always displayed a pride in the boys and their achievements and was keenly interested in local history; he was a member of the Nonsuch Society. We welcome the notes he sends us on natural life in the New Forest.

Frank Bell, 1960—?

In the autumn of 1960 we gave Frank Bell of Mitcham a warm welcome and we hope that history is now being made. Yet, of course, it cannot be written. What then of the future?

Our school has come of age and we like to think it has served the community well. Changes are in the air and the future is not ours to control. It may be that the school will not live to see its bi-centenary but we hope that the seeds we are now sowing will grow into something greater. We hope that we are contributing something towards the years which lie ahead.

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