

DEDDINGTON SCHOOLS

Notes from Jose

Holcombe House -

Miss Bolton started in 1920 - 1935. (She had been Governess to the Kaiser's nephew pre-war in Austria.)

There were 5 teaching staff, approximately 20-30 pupils, boys and girls. Some weekly boarders (children from farms) who lived in Cottage Bar end. Students could stay till 14 or 15. All subjects taught including sports.

Some French and German students came from June to October, a sort of finishing school, learning language and some culture, Stratford, etc. Some foreign students came back for more than one year.

Miss Ivens School, Stoneleigh, Victoria Terrace.

1934-38, 5 staff, 20-25 pupils, girls and boys. All subjects taught, including sports.

Land extended to Earls Lane, Sports Day held on land where The Beeches is now.

Miss Melsom's School, Rosedene House, High Street, (to right of Archway opposite Hudson Lane). Only 5 pupils (children of "the gentry"). In 1947/48 the children were brought to The Holcombe for lunch every day. (The Holcombe had been bought from Miss Bolton in 1938 by Jose's father, Mr. West, and was being run as a Guest House also serving meals. During the war they had had 3 R.A.F. families from Upper Heyford living there.)

Mrs. Thompson had small school in Ilbury House, New Street, in the 1960's, she also had a Dancing School there. Sold in the 1970's.

(During the war Ilbury House was taken over by the Americans and used for billeting troops before they were sent overseas. There was a cookhouse and canteen in the yard at The Unicorn, a canteen in the Wesleyan Chapel and a canteen in the Council yard at the rear of Stoneleigh House.)

Hazel, neice of Miss Bolton, has some photos of Holcombe House as a school.

The Windmill Secondary Modern School, Hempton Road.

1950-72, single storey with corrugated asbestos roof. Hall added later. Approximately 240-250 pupils, including from Steeple Aston, Milton and Adderbury. After The Warriner was built the Windmill was used for heavy craft and domestic science.

When the Windmill was built in 1950 the Church School on Banbury Road became a Primary School.