



224 is the newsletter of the Deddington & District History Society. During our season we meet at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month, normally at Deddington's Windmill Centre. Membership is £10/18 p.a. singles/couples or £2.50 at the door for visitors, who are equally welcome. The editor actively encourages contributions to be sent to 1 South Newington Road, Barford St Michael OX15 0RJ. Email history@deddington.net

From the Chair

This issue of 224 returns to the subject of education. Yet again we are pleased to be the means of our members' research getting into print. On this occasion we are publishing Buffy Heywood's article on Deddington school, a fascinating piece of research that takes the history of teaching in the parish back into the 16th century. Tudor monarchs are often given the credit for establishing grammar schools across the country (eg King Henry VIII School, Coventry, King Edward VI School, Birmingham), when in reality most such institutions were but the re-founding of much older schools that had been suppressed at the Reformation. Like many places, Deddington had a school attached to a chantry in the parish church. In common with those others it was dissolved and its income taken over by the Crown, though in Deddington's case the Crown did not replace the chantry school with a secular one; it simply took the money. As Buffy points out, it was left to a private benefactor, Sir Thomas Pope, to make good the gap. That seems appropriate, given that Pope made a fortune as Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, ie supervisor of the sale of suppressed religious institutions. Vast sums of money passed through his hands, and enough stuck to enable him to found Trinity College in Oxford, to purchase extensive estates, and to begin the move of his family out of Leaden-porch Farm and Deddington and into the peerage at Wroxton Abbey.

Chris Day

Deddington schools

The first mention I have been able to find of a school in Deddington is contained in a chantry certificate of 1547 which refers to 'The late guild of the Trinity in the parish church of Dadyngton'. It mentions a school there, that William Burton, the incumbent was the schoolmaster, and that 'the said William Burton is a good schoolmaster and bringeth up youth very well in learning'. Also in the 16th century Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, who it is thought was born in Deddington, left money for a free grammar school (a 'Jhesus Scolle') at Deddington (See *Rural Education* by A W Ashby & P G Byles). This was reported elsewhere to have been in 1555 when he made an agreement with Trinity College to provide a Schoolmaster and Usher for it, who would teach 'Gramer & humanitie'.

The Victoria County History tells us that in 1673 a 'school house' was made in the Church, the Schoolmaster then being Edward Kempster, the Parish Clerk. However, there would seem to have been another school as well, as the Vicar at that time, Jeremiah Wheate, (1673-1697) in a letter to Bishop Fell on non-conformity in 1682, refers to a Mr Whately as a non-conformist minister, and later as 'our schoolmaster'. Bishop Fell noted in his diocese book that Mr Whately was an unlicensed teacher, and probably as a result of Mr Wheate's letter Samuel Whately was brought before the archdeacon's court in November 1682 and charged with teaching school 'with-

out licence lawfully obtained from his Bishop'. He did not obey the order to stop teaching, and was before the archdeacon again in June 1684. Mr Wheate is reported to have himself taught boys in Deddington from 1682—it is thought perhaps in an attempt to counteract the influence of the non-conformist school.

During the 18th century the schools appeared to be supported mainly by charity, with a charity school for 16 boys and 16 girls in 1712, a school for 20 boys in 1718, and reading and the catechism being taught at the expense of 'a private gentleman' in 1727 with the children paying 1d a week each. By 1738 the three manorial lords and neighbouring gentlemen were supporting a school for 20 boys, who, after learning reading, writing and arithmetic, were put out to apprenticeship, and which in 1808 is referred to as a Church Charity School which had 35 pupils. This seems to have been too small for the town's needs, with the then vicar again reporting that 50 or 60 children were being taught by 'illiterate men' at a Methodist Sunday school during church services.

1814 sees the opening of a local branch of the National School Society, firstly for boys and a year later girls as well, by which time there were 100 pupils and the Charity school was closed. Approximately £420 seems to have been raised by subscription with much support from the Rev. William Wilson of Over Worton, and numbers of pupils grew rapidly with 141 boys and 94 girls by 1816 including about 20 children from neighbouring par-

ishes. The school appears to have been situated in buildings attached to Appletree Farm and lying to the south of Hopcraft Lane (previously known as School Lane) and owned by Christ Church. Numbers fluctuated over the years and by the mid 1830s there were ten other private schools with 110 pupils in all, and an Infants School had been started by the then Vicar, the Rev Richard Greaves, in premises in Church Street which subsequently became the Wesleyan Chapel.

The Rev W Cotton Risley became Vicar of Deddington in 1836 and held jurisdiction over both the National and Infant schools, the latter being bought by him. He appointed the school masters and mistresses, paid their salaries and 'collected the pence' from the pupils each week. In June 1838 he records in his diaries he and his wife entertaining nearly 200 children with beef and plum pudding in the Infants school as part of the celebrations for the coronation of Queen Victoria. However, in September of that year he was asked about the probability of Deddington being 'a place for a young man to commence Schoolmaster with success'—to which he replied in the negative. He approached the Canons of Windsor (the holders of the Living) in 1839 with a request for funds but 'could not prevail on them to give anything to our School'. He had plans early in the 1840s for new schools, but nothing seems to have come of these and he subsequently resigned the Living in 1847, being succeeded by the Rev J Brogden. Mr Risley wrote to Mr Brogden in 1848 saying 'I shall have something to say about the Schools, which have never been conducted as I could have wished, or as they ought to be, from peculiar circumstances. They are both my property'.

Mr Brogden published a long letter on the need for new school buildings in 1848 (a copy of which is in the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies) and this was subsequently read to a public meeting in Deddington. Mr Brogden left the village for some time in 1850 and a Committee took over, and

in 1852 a site on the Banbury Road (where the present primary school stands) was given to the village by W C Cartwright of Aynho—the Lord of one of the three Manors of Deddington. This was reported in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* in February 1852 and in July of that year they wrote of a meeting which agreed that new schools should be built and an application be made for Government aid. The report also mentions a 'treat of tea, cakes, etc' to the children attending the schools of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, then amounting to nearly 400. Funds were raised, building was commenced, the foundation stone laid in March 1853 and the school opened in January 1854. A report was then prepared by the two curates of Deddington, the Rev W Wilson and the Rev G Venables, who had acted as treasurer and secretary to the promoters, (a copy of this also is in the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies). This report sets out the progress of the negotiations and the work, gives a financial statement with a list of all the donors, the donations received and payments made, a record of thanks and a report of a bazaar run by the ladies of the village which resulted in a donation of £150 to the funds. The total cost is recorded as £1,244.14.7d, leaving a balance of £43.7.5d from the receipts of £1,288.2.0d.

However, the Vicar, Mr Brogden, then returned, he instigated a dispute over the administration of funds and within a year the school was closed. It reopened a year later, in 1856, with an average attendance of 90 boys and 90 girls, by 1868 this had risen to 247 children of agricultural labourers in winter and 191 in summer, and it must have been during this time that Thomas Manchip (1843—1911) became headmaster of the boys' school. He held this position for 37 years and was also choir-master of the church for 34 years, and there is a tablet in the church 'erected in affectionate remembrance and grateful appreciation of his work in this Parish by old boys, members of the choir and personal friends'. In

1875 a separate infants section was established, which was moved in 1908 into the former girls' school. There are between 25 and 30 volumes of old books at the school at the present time including day books, lesson books and attendance records from the 1850s onwards [which this society is currently digitising].

Mrs Josie Stevens has told me of several small private schools operating in Deddington in the 20th century. Holcombe House (on the site of the present Holcombe Hotel) was opened by Miss Bolton (she had been Governess to the Kaiser's nephew pre-war in Austria) in 1920 taking approximately 20-30 pupils, boys and girls, staying until the age of 14 or 15 and including some weekly boarders. There were 5 teaching staff and all subjects, including sports, were taught. In the summer months French and German students attended it as a 'finishing school', learning languages and going on various excursions. The school closed in 1935. Miss Ivens' School in Stoneleigh, Victoria Terrace, was open from 1934-1938, took approximately 20-25 boys and girls, also had 5 staff and taught all subjects including sports. There were two smaller establishments, Miss Melsom in Rosedene House, High Street, had only 5 pupils (the children of 'the gentry') during and after the war; and Mrs. Thompson had a small school and a dancing school in Ilbury House, New Street, in the 1960s.

The 2nd World War brought change to the village in many ways, one of which was the evacuation of a school in Fulham to Oxfordshire accompanied by a teacher, George Wing. Although most of the evacuee children presumably returned eventually to London, George Wing stayed on in Deddington, where he became in 1941 a distinguished headmaster of the school. In 1950 a new secondary modern school opened on the former Windmill site on the Hempton Road, the older children moved over and the school on the Banbury Road became a church primary school. The Windmill School had approximately

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CHURCH SCHOOLS

240-250 pupils, including children from the neighbouring villages of Steeple Aston, Milton and Adderbury, and George Wing now became headmaster here. In 1952 an appeal, entitled *Deddington Church Schools, 1550-1950*, was published in the village asking for £9,500 to bring the primary school buildings up to modern standards required under the 1944 Education Act. There was to be a new classroom with the existing large room having a permanent stage, new cloakrooms, an entrance hall and a staff room, the Local Education Authority being responsible for central heating, new kitchens and dining arrangements and any work on the playground. The Bishop of Dorchester wrote a forward to the appeal which asked for covenants and/or donations, and the alterations were expected to be carried out between 1959 and 1963. In September 1971 The Warriner comprehensive school opened in Bloxham taking all the children from the old Windmill School, some of the buildings there being used for heavy craft and domestic science for a short time. Once again George Wing moved to become headmaster of The Warriner, retiring in 1973 after 52 years with the School.

The Deddington C of E primary school has flourished over the succeeding years with more alterations and extensions taking place. There are now 196 pupils and 30 staff, a

This illustration was used as the cover to the 1952 Appeal for Funds. It is reproduced from a print entitled 'The Pedagogue' by George Woodward, 1790, in the possession of Arnold M Muirhead, Esq. The appeal was printed by the Rev Maurice Frost, vicar of Deddington, on his own private printing press in the Vicarage. George Moulard Woodward (1760-1809) was an amateur caricaturist who produced political cartoons in London between 1794 and 1800, including some in a strip format that was of his own devising. He lived a rather dissolute life and died in a tavern, so the choice may not have been entirely appropriate.

Board of 14 Governors, an enthusiastic Parent/Teacher Association and the school is an integral and important part of the village.

Buffy Heywood

Acknowledgements

Alan Crossley, ed, *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire* Vol XI, 1983.

Mary Clapinson, ed, *Bishop Fell and Nonconformity: Visitation Documents from the Oxford Diocese, 1682-3*. Oxfordshire Record Society, 1980.

The Diaries of the Rev W Cotton Risley, in the Bodleian Library.

The Centre for Oxfordshire Studies.

Mrs Josie Stevens (who has lived in Deddington all her life and whose late husband, Bob, was Deputy Head of the Windmill School when it opened in 1951.)

Articles by Ruth Johnson on Thomas Manchip and George Wing in the *Deddington News*, February 2003 and July 2004.

Brian Carter, *Printers & Publishers in Deddington 1840-2004*.

Sing a Song of Salvage

There's nothing new about recycling or saving for a brighter future as anyone who remembers the Second World War will testify. The message certainly struck home at Dr Radcliffe's School in Steeple Aston where, between about 1943 and 1944, the children produced well over a hundred posters encouraging everyone to save and reduce waste. Their teacher at the time, Dorothy Banfield Dew (1888-1987), clearly felt that these artworks were worth keeping and they are now part of the Dew Collection which she deposited with

Oxfordshire Museum Service in 1974. This hugely varied collection contains almost 2,000 items and includes her father's spectacles and pocket watch, shawls and samplers, even a blown ostrich egg.

Dorothy Dew was the daughter of George James Dew (1846-1928), a Lower Heyford man with a number of official roles, and Mary Dew (1845-1936), the village schoolmistress for 46 years until 1913. Dorothy followed in her mother's footsteps and she took over as head teacher at Lower Heyford when her mother retired. School numbers at Heyford fell away between the Wars and Dorothy was transferred to Dr Radcliffe's School in Steeple Aston as Needlework and Art teacher in 1939, remaining there until she retired in 1954.

Normal schooling continued as far as possible in wartime but disruption was inevitable. School age children from the London area were evacuated to Oxfordshire at the beginning of September 1939 and Dr Radcliffe's School received 71 children from Barking and West Ham. Pressure on space meant that the Scout Hut was being used as a temporary classroom in July 1940. Schools had to be 'blacked out' so that no lights were visible outside and, at Steeple Aston, parents got busy digging trenches for air raid shelters. Classes in Oxfordshire schools would have become familiar with air raid precautions drill, often spending part of the school day in damp shelters. Food rationing and efforts to improve children's diets led to the introduction of school meals. The military took over many large houses and many new airfields and camps appeared in the Oxfordshire country-

side. Army training exercises became an exciting distraction for children, particularly when these involved Canadian and later American forces who might offer them goodies. The War forced its way into every waking second and, on the Home Front, every effort was made to involve the whole population, children as well as adults, in savings, salvage and other campaigns.

Teachers encouraged classes to put their pennies into National Savings each week and they organised school campaigns such as the one at Summertown School which raised £154 9s in war savings in 1940. They would also have stressed the importance of national campaigns such as Lord Beaverbrook's Spitfire fund in 1940. One little boy, not yet four, brought a toy gun into the Faringdon office, saying 'This is to kill Hitler with' and his older sister sacrificed her precious sewing and embroidery box to raise money. Children also took home and doubtless reinforced campaign messages like 'Saucepans into Spitfires' which urged households to give up their best aluminium pans for the war effort. Boys from Wantage Church School enthusiastically collected four tons of scrap iron in the summer of 1940 and Oxford schoolchildren were even accused of being 'troublesome' or over-zealous during the book salvage drive in 1943!

The Steeple Aston posters fit neatly into this background and some are clearly associated with specific national savings campaigns, Navy Week for the Royal Navy and Wings for Victory Week for the Royal Air Force. Dr Radcliffe's School held a Parents' Open Day on May 27th, 1943 in connection with Wings for Victory Week and raised £204.6s 10d (£204.34) during the week, far exceeding its target of £100. Many posters are of a more general wartime application, encouraging people to 'Stamp on the Squander Bug', 'Sing a Song of Salvage' or 'Save like Fun to Beat the Hun'. Primary schools all over the country probably did work like this but it has rarely survived, not least because paper



Two post cards of Steeple Aston school at an earlier date, by courtesy of Barry Davies. Above 1904, and below with pupils in 1914, by Percy Simms.

was rationed and you were expected to recycle or re-use it.

Thinking about posterity perhaps, Dorothy Dew ignored the recycling bin and added the posters to her burgeoning collection of local and family memorabilia. You can now see them, and the rest of the Dew Collection (reference OXCMS 1974.28), by appointment at the Museums Resource Centre, Witney Road, Standlake, OX29 7QG; for further information, please ring 01865 300972 or visit the site at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mrc. You can also view part of the collection on the Heritage Search site at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritage arch

Miss Dew passed many family pa-

pers, including her father's diaries, to the Bodleian Library and Pamela Horn has published extracts from the diaries which are available at Oxfordshire Studies. Some papers relating to George Dew's work as local registrar, relieving officer and parish clerk have since been transferred to Oxfordshire Record Office and you can consult them there.

Malcolm Graham

