

UPTON GREY: SOCIAL HISTORY II: EDUCATION

Upton Grey provided education from the late 17th century to 1986, often receiving children from neighbouring South Warnborough, Weston Patrick, Weston Corbett and Bidden. It initially benefitted from the support of local residents and was subsequently run by managers and trustees, the Winchester Division Board of Finance and finally by the County as a Controlled School. Evacuees were admitted in the Second World War. In 2010 pupils are educated outside the parish, with only playgroup provision being available in the village.



Upton Grey School 1986¹

Provision to 1871

It is unclear what provision existed before 1819, presentments dated 1692,² 1697³ and 1700⁴ state that 'schoolmasters and schools present all well' whilst an intervening return of 1693⁵ says there is 'nothing to declare'. A monumental inscription⁶ in Upton Grey churchyard for William Gauntlett who died in 1796 describes him as having been a schoolmaster for 26 years. He taught in the Sunday

¹ *General Accident Property Services Estate agent sales particulars 1986*

² HRO: 202M85/3/1214

³ HRO: 202M85/3/1216

⁴ HRO: 202M85/3/1217

⁵ HRO: 202M85/3/1215

⁶ MI in churchyard, no 119 in locally compiled list

school and left all scholars, whether attending or not, a shilling and a threepenny plum cake, which was to be made by a baker in Odiham.⁷ Whether he also taught at a day school is unknown. In 1778 and 1791 'bed joynts, ticking, sacking, bolsters, hen feathers, scrues etc.' were delivered to Mrs Sogram, Boarding School, Upton Grey, but the location of this school is unknown.⁸

In 1819 two schools were supported on the National plan by Mrs Beaufoy, wife of the Lord of the Manor; one had 80 boys and the other had 80 girls. Only 70 children lived in Upton Grey parish which (including Hoddington Tything) had a combined population of 452; some children were received from South Warnborough.⁹ Mrs Beaufoy provided roast beef and plum pudding for nearly 300 school children on 7th January 1823 and gave each boy a hat and shirt and each girl a bonnet and frock.¹⁰

By 1833 two infant schools had 22 children. The daily schools had 100 children each, with 40 children coming from Weston Patrick parish. One Sunday school was for 40 females; another two had 10 male adults and 30 boys each. Mrs Beaufoy also provided an Evening School held during the three winter months, attended by about 16 adult males.¹¹ Two school premises are shown on the tithe map of 1839 on land owned by Charles Beaufoy;¹² one for girls in the existing old school building and one for boys on the site subsequently occupied by the village hall. The Rev Henry Rookin and William Lutley Sclater, Magistrate for Hampshire and owner of Hoddington House, supported a school in 1855.¹³

1870-1902

By 1870 boys and girls were taught together in the premises previously used by the girls. The 1870 Elementary Education Act Inspector's Return recommended that if the 'present C. of E. school be made efficient by the provision of parallel desks and proper apparatus and registers and be placed under the charge of a certified

⁷ HRO: 1797A/29 Will of William Gauntlett

⁸ HRO: 8M62/14 Customer Accounts Ledger, John Ring, auctioneer and furniture supplier, Basingstoke, 120, 162

⁹ *PP*, 1819 (224), 840

¹⁰ *Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle*, Jan 13 1823, issue 1214

¹¹ *PP*, 1835 (62), 861

¹² HRO: 21M65/F7/241/1

¹³ *Post Office Directory of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorsetshire*, 1855, 165

teacher, no further accommodation will be required.¹⁴ By 1875 £22 had been spent on the necessary improvements and staffing.¹⁵ The single building which could accommodate 73 pupils was brick and slate, with two school rooms, two cloak lobbies, two playgrounds, a coal house and offices (toilets).¹⁶ The infants' room measured 15ft x 14ft, the mixed age classroom 33ft x 18ft.¹⁷ The rooms were heated by stoves fuelled by coal, coke and faggots. The owner at this time was Admiral Sir William Fanshawe Martin of Upton Grey House who financed the school and ran it alongside four managers: William Lutley Sclater, Rev G W Jeurwine, Samuel Mummery, (an Upton Grey maltster/farmer) and Charles Butler, (a farmer from nearby Tile Barn).¹⁸ Additional income was collected from rate payers at the rate of 3s in the pound.¹⁹ Teachers were given free lodgings in the village, with furniture supplied.²⁰ Children attended free of charge.

Attendance was a problem in the late 1870s, prizes of 1s 6d and 1s were introduced for pupils with the best attendance records for each quarter. By 1880 an improvement was seen, with 14 children sharing a total award of 10s over the academic year.²¹ Junior children were admitted from neighbouring Weston Patrick when it was incorporated into the civil parish of Upton Grey in 1880; children were also received from Weston Corbett and Tile Barn.²² Varying numbers of children on the roll consistently created problems of staffing in this two- or sometimes three-teacher school. In 1900, in order to maintain staffing levels, the headmistress was willing to forego the £5 Government Grant for which she was eligible, rather than lose her assistant due to falling numbers.²³

Funding throughout the late 1890s was difficult, with applications to Lord Basing, Queen's College Oxford, the Voluntary Schools Aid Association, Special Aid Grant Committee and increasing numbers of rate payers for assistance with staff salaries,

¹⁴ TNA: PRO ED 21/6611

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ HRO: 23M72/E45

¹⁷ HRO: 42M98/1/6

¹⁸ HRO: 259M87/A29 Frontispiece

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 19 Jan 1876

²⁰ *Ibid.* 3 Feb 1881

²¹ *Ibid.* 11 Feb 1878; 3 Feb 1880

²² HRO: 2M81/PZ6 Notebook of Rev Heanley to his successor.

²³ HRO: 259M87/A30 11 Sep 1900

the purchase of new desks and repairs.²⁴ When the Lord of the Manor, Sir W F Martin, reached the age of 94 in 1894, he wished to leave the schoolroom to the Church for the use of the children of Upton Grey forever.²⁵ Sir Richard Byam Martin inherited the estate by 1895 and continued to be supportive in maintaining the building,²⁶ whilst Lord Basing, the Misses Martin, Mr Seth-Smith and the vicar all made additional subscriptions.²⁷ At this time there were 82 children on the register, with an average attendance of 47.²⁸ An Inspector's report in 1899 considered the school to be satisfactory; similarly a Diocesan Inspector reported in 1900 that there was every prospect of the school becoming efficient under the new headmistress, Miss Ethel Adams.²⁹

1902-1944

A surveyor's report of 1902 stated that the interior was damp, there was no ventilation and water was obtained from neighbouring cottages (presumably from their wells). One toilet was a slate-roofed building with a bucket, the urinals drained into a privy pit, an iron washstand was in the cloakroom which was lit only by louvres and the exterior needed repainting.³⁰ A request was made to replace the offices with a pail system, especially as caretaking was poor and ordure from latrines was deposited in a small shrubbery opposite the main door. An Inspector reported in 1931 that as 'such disgusting conditions prevailed, children are unlikely to learn the habits of cleanliness and orderliness which is one of the most useful functions of a small school' and that the girls' playground was too small for drill and mainly served as an ash pit.³¹ The Rev Sewell replied that the girls played in the school approach and on the other side of the road in an open space by the village hall, something that was possible and safe in a rural village.³² In 1930 £35.6s was spent on improving the head teacher's house and supplying mains water, even though the trust was £21 overdrawn at the bank.³³ Charles Holme became the new landlord and rented the

²⁴ HRO: 259M87/A30 12 Apr 1899

²⁵ HRO: 42M98/1/2 Letter 20 Dec 1894

²⁶ HRO: 259M87/A30 17 Aug 1898

²⁷ HRO: 2M81/PZ6 Rev Heanley's notes to his successor

²⁸ *Kelly's Directory of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 1898, 534

²⁹ HRO: 250M87/A30 11 Sep 1900

³⁰ TNA: PRO ED 21/6611

³¹ HRO: 259M87/A31 2 Jan 1931

³² HRO: H/ED1/5/342 Letter 31 Mar 1931

³³ *Ibid.* Letter 16 Mar 1931

school building to the managers for £4 a year, which he returned as a subscription. He also purchased the property adjoining the school and allotted part of the land to increase the playground.³⁴ Mr Seth-Smith rented out a house in Weston Road for the sole use of the school teacher at a rent of £8 a year.³⁵

An Inspector's report of 1914 made allowance for the shifting nature of the population. Of 61 children, 17 had been admitted in the current academic year. 'The work of the school in no subject rose above the level of dull mediocrity with only 11 out of the 61 children being above Standard III. The school was wanting in vitality and ambition.' He noted the lack of manual training and gardening. English composition lacked fluency which, however, was present in reading, but articulation and expression were poor. There were failures in arithmetic to develop mental control over numbers and PE was hurried and inexact.³⁶ Several changes of infant teachers occurred between 1904 and 1916, owing to the rude behaviour of the children and scant courtesy from the headmaster. By June of 1916 the headmaster was transferred to another school and a replacement employed.³⁷

The school in the neighbouring village of Weston Patrick School closed in 1917 and all eligible children were admitted to Upton Grey School. A library was started in 1923, but one mother refused to allow books in her home,³⁸ (no reason is given for this). Another Inspector's report, of 1925, stated that the school had shown considerable signs of progress and that children were responsive and anxious to do well.³⁹ By 1927 ratepayers living in Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett were asked to contribute to school funds.⁴⁰

School attendance remained irregular; closures occurred due to coughs and colds in 1922⁴¹ and measles in 1927.⁴² Snow and floods occasionally prevented children living long distances away from attending in the winter, and there were regular

³⁴ HRO: 259M87/A31 14 Apr 1904

³⁵ HRO: 259M87/A30 4 Apr 1903

³⁶ TNA: PRO ED 21/6611 HMI Report 28 Mar 1914

³⁷ HRO: 259M87/A31 24 Mar 1916

³⁸ HRO: 259M87/LB1 28 Feb 1923

³⁹ TNA: PRO ED 21/29593 HMI Report 30 June 1925

⁴⁰ HRO: 259M87/A31 2 Mar 1927

⁴¹ HRO: 259M87/LB1 16 Feb 1922

⁴² HRO: 259M87/A31 2 Mar 1927

absences at the start of the autumn term as children remained on holiday with their parents; one boy was absent in October in two consecutive years for helping his parents with mushroom picking⁴³ and one child was absent for two weeks in September 1930 for hop picking.⁴⁴ The school was officially closed for royal weddings, for funerals and christenings of notable village families, as well as for Women's Institute outings for children, the use of the school as a polling station and half a day for the dedication of the war memorial in December 1919.

Miss Seth-Smith used the premises for Sunday school, Scouts and choral classes.⁴⁵ The Chief Education Officer gave the head permission to use his 3-valve radio in lessons in 1928.⁴⁶ Standards had dropped in 1932, following the retirement of a long-term headmistress, with an interregnum of supply teachers being in control for five months.⁴⁷ In 1932 the head taught 40 children in one class across six standards, the assistant had 23 infants.⁴⁸ The small size of the infants' room created a constant problem, forcing the larger room to accommodate children of a wide age and ability range. In 1934 the headmistress advised that none of the three eligible children should be entered for the scholarship examinations, due to poor health and bad attendance.⁴⁹ In 1935 one boy passed the entrance examination for the Royal Navy School of Music in Deal.⁵⁰ Between 1937 and 1939 eight pupils had transferred to secondary school, two having gained scholarships.⁵¹

The head teacher, Mrs Clapp, was permitted to divide the large room with a curtain in 1938, when the school roll was 58.⁵² Accommodation difficulties suddenly escalated in 1939, when an initial intake of 18 evacuee children from Highland Road School, Portsmouth arrived with their teachers. Other children arrived as voluntary evacuees from the London area. Throughout the years 1939-1941 the number of

⁴³ HRO: 259M87/LB1 18 Oct 1929

⁴⁴ HRO: H/ED1/5/342 Absentee slip 22 Sep 1930

⁴⁵ HRO: 259M87/LB1 15 Sept 1919

⁴⁶ HRO: H/ED1/5/342 Letter 28 Mar 1928

⁴⁷ TNA: PRO ED 21/29593 HMI Report 26 Feb 1932

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ HRO: H/ED1/5/342 Letter 5 Dec 1934

⁵⁰ Ibid. Letter 17 Dec 1935

⁵¹ Ibid. HMI Report 10 March 1939

⁵² HRO: 259M87/A31 Ratepayers' Minutes 16 March 1938

pupils ranged from to 54 to 110.⁵³ The village hall across the road from the school was hired for senior pupils and for mealtimes. Washing up was done with great inconvenience in the headmistress's house. When the Women's Institute or Infant's Welfare Group held their monthly meetings in the hall, the senior children returned to the school, or if weather permitted, had lessons in the playground, did gardening or went on country rambles; some occasionally went to the School House for cookery. By October 1943 lunch time meals were delivered by the British Restaurant in Odiham.⁵⁴

The estate was put up for sale on the death of the owner, Mr George Hayes, in 1941. Rev Selwyn secured the purchase of the school for £150, with funds from the Diocesan Board of Finance (£25), Diocesan Church Schools Committee (£40), the National Society (£15) and local subscribers,⁵⁵ thus avoiding a compulsory purchase by the Council.⁵⁶ The Winchester Diocese Board of Finance accepted Custodian Trusteeship⁵⁷. The School House, valued at £500, proved too expensive and was bought by Mr S Westbrook. He continued to lease it to the school for use by the head teacher.⁵⁸

1944 to the Present

The school returned to some degree of normality when the evacuees returned home at the end of December 1944 and the roll was reduced to 49.⁵⁹ A lean-to scullery was built on the northern side of the school and electric light installed. In 1951 children aged 11+ were sent to Odiham, 12 senior girls to Bury Fields and 5 boys to London Road School.⁶⁰ In 1955 the school became a voluntary Controlled School as outlined in the 1944 Education Act, managed by the County Education Committee.⁶¹

The building improvements of new cloakrooms, staff lavatory, waterborne sanitation and kitchen were finally completed in 1958, when meals could be prepared and

⁵³ HRO: 259M87/LB1 *passim*

⁵⁴ HRO: H/ED1/5/342 Letter 20 Oct 1943

⁵⁵ HRO: 259M87/A31 Ratepayers' Minutes 23 Dec 1941

⁵⁶ HRO: H/ED15/342 Internal Note 19 Sept 1941

⁵⁷ HRO: 259M87/A31 23 Dec 1941

⁵⁸ *Ibid.* 1 Jul 1943

⁵⁹ HRO: 259M87/LB2 HMI Report 2 Jul 1946

⁶⁰ TNA: PRO ED 161/6516 Letter Oct 1951

⁶¹ HRO: 259M87/A31 1 June 1955

eaten on the premises.⁶² An Inspector noted satisfactory progress in the three Rs and that able children achieved very good standards and had the opportunity to use their own initiative. Increased attention given to creative work over the last few years had shown results, but needlework needed to be progressive. The future of the school overall was promising.⁶³

Between 1958 and 1965 the number of pupils had reduced by 20, reflecting the changing population structure of Upton Grey. In April 1965 the Inspector referred to the 'backwardness and limited ability of the greater part of the children in the junior class. Many only learn to read and calculate with great difficulty.'⁶⁴

Hampshire County Council's minimum standard for schools in 1985 was 40 children; Upton Grey had 29. With closure threatened, 12 had already moved to other schools, leaving only 17 pupils. The Governors accepted that closure was inevitable, which was doubly disruptive for those children who had previously transferred from Herriard School when it had closed only two years earlier. The majority of the remaining children transferred to Long Sutton School after the summer term of 1986.

With the support and intervention of Lord Denning, parents fought to continue to use the building as a nursery school, but they were unsuccessful.⁶⁵ The school was sold in January 1990 and converted into a domestic dwelling. Some of the net proceeds were placed in an educational trust. Twice-yearly awards continue to be awarded in 2010 to Long Sutton School, as well as to parishioners applying for financial assistance for educational studies, trips and sports training.

⁶² HRO: 259M87/LB2 HMI Report 4 June 1958

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ HRO: 259M87/A58 HMI Report 6 April 1965

⁶⁵ HRO: 42M98/1/1-14 *Sunday Times* 25 Sep 1988, A5