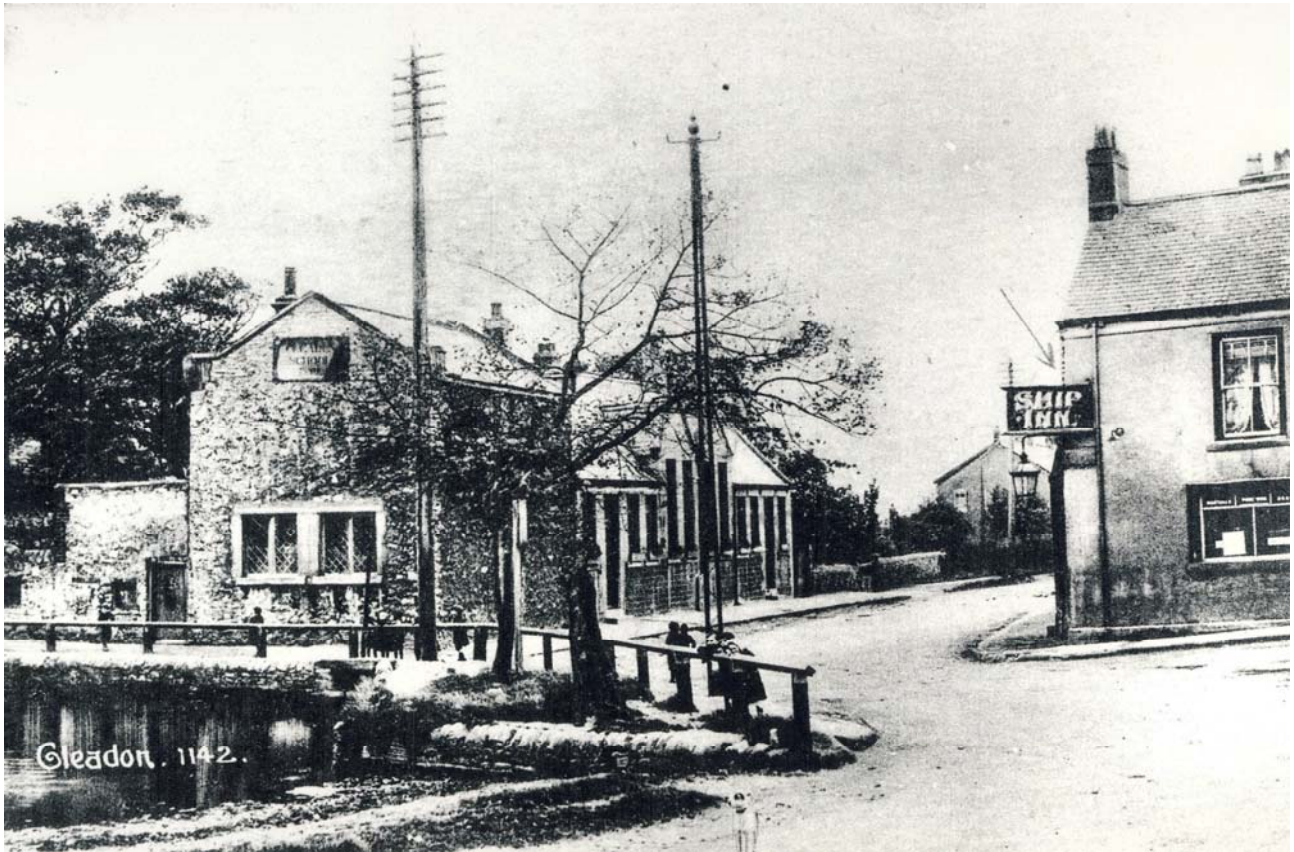


GLIMPSES INTO SCHOOL

EARLY DAYS IN CLEADON VILLAGE



*Old school rooms and the Ship Inn
prior to 1936 when the pond was reduced in size.*

Compiled by Kathleen Robinson
2014

1830 Parochial School 5 - 13	1870 <i>Education Act</i>	1872 Church School	1880 <i>Education Act</i>	1903 Old School Room	1908 C of E Infants School & Council School 5 - 6 & 7 - 13
1944 <i>Education Act</i>	County Junior Mixed School 7 - 11	1955 Oakleigh Gardens School	1963 Junior Mixed (Boldon Lane)	2007 C of E Primary School	2014 C of E Academy
			C of E Infants (Cleadon Lane)		

CONTENTS

Glimpses into School: Early days in Cleadon village.....	1
Introduction The Log Book of Cleadon Church School.....	5
Part 1 The Schools in Cleadon Village	6
A. Cleadon Parochial School.....	6
B. A new two-roomed school.....	7
C. The Council School [sometimes called the National School or the Big School]	7
D. Cleadon County Junior Mixed School.....	8
E. Cleadon Church of England Primary School/Academy	8
F. Oakleigh Gardens School	9
Part 2 Education Acts.....	10
Part 3 Miss Welch At Cleadon Church School 1872 - 1874	11
A. The Log Book.....	11
B. The first weeks of official education in Cleadon (excerpts).....	12
C. The School Building and its equipment.....	14
D. School attendance... How many children?.....	15
E. More lessons with Miss Welch.....	16
Part 4 A New Schoolroom (1903)... now known as The Old Schoolroom.....	20
A. A new building June 3rd and an additional teacher June 15th.	25
Part 5 The Dreaded Inspections ...some reports between 1872 and 1904.....	26
Part 6 Cleadon Council School 1908	29
A. Frederick Hill.....	33
Part 7 Cleadon Schools 1914 ... 1918 ... 1922	34
A. Log Book Entries 1914 - 1918	34
B. Evelyn Blackett.....	35
Part 8 Oakleigh Gardens School.	37
Part 9 Memories of Schooldays in the 1930s.....	41
A. Olive's Story	41
B. Gordon's Stories	41
C. Hilda's Story	42
D. June's Stories	43
E. David's Recollections.....	45
Part 10 More information from Cleadon Village History Society.....	49
A. Schooldays are the best days	49
B. Extracts from Log Book of Cleadon Council Junior Mixed School 1947	50
C. Cleadon Parochial school ... documentary evidence	52
D. Cleadon Lake	56

Part 11	Cleadon Village Church of England Primary School.....	57
Appendix	Maps of Cleadon 1839 – 1988	59
A.	Map 1: 1839 Tithe Map	59
B.	1896	60
C.	1899 Land Sale	62
D.	1939	63
E.	1988	64

Figures:

Cover:	Old school rooms and the Ship Inn.....	1
Plate 1:	Former Parochial School then Church School [newspaper article, 1930?].....	6
Plate 2:	The “Old” Schoolroom, Church School then C of E Infants School.....	7
Plate 3:	National “Council” School then C of E Infants School.	7
Plate 4:	County Junior Mixed School.	8
Plate 5:	Church of England Primary School then Church of England Academy.....	8
Plate 6:	Oakleigh Gardens School.	9
Plate 7:	Church School log book, opening (ref. E. CL1/1/1).....	11
Plate 8:	Parochial School and Church School (circa 1930).	14
Plate 9:	The Old Schoolroom.	20
Plate 10:	The Old Schoolroom: west elevation.....	20
Plate 11:	The Old Schoolroom: floor-plan.	21
Plate 12:	The Old Schoolroom: east elevation.	21
Plate 13:	The Old Schoolroom: plan with church hall.	22
Plate 14:	Infants School, date unknown. [Cleadon History Society].....	22
Plate 15:	Infants School, Pupils of Standard 1, July 1911. [Reeder and Fletcher]	23
Plate 16:	Infants School, 1928. [Reeder and Fletcher]	23
Plate 17:	Infants School, Empire Day 1931. [M.Forsyth].....	24
Plate 18:	The Council School.	29
Plate 20:	Council School, 1921. [Isa Gilchrist]	30
Plate 21:	Council School, date unknown.	31
Plate 22:	Council School, 1924? [Sybil Reeder and F. A. Fletcher].....	31
Plate 23:	Council School, Football Champions 1935 - 36. [Reeder and Fletcher]	32
Plate 24:	Council School netball team in the 1930s. [Reeder and Fletcher].....	32
Plate 27:	The Cottage Homes, date unknown.....	33
Plate 26:	Council School, 1921. [Isa Gilchrist]	35
Plate 25:	Essay by Evelyn Blackett. [Isa Gilchrist]	36
Plate 28:	Oakleigh Gardens School. [Joan Green]	37
Plate 29:	The Cottage Homes, date unknown.....	39
Plate 30:	An aerial photograph of Cleadon Village 1926 from the north.	40
Plate 31:	Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7th July 1940. Page 1. [Tyne and Wear Museums]	46
Plate 32:	Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7 th July 1940. Page 2. [Tyne and Wear Museums].....	47
Plate 33:	Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7 th July 1940. Transcript. [Tyne and Wear Museums]	48
Plate 34:	Three schoolgirls standing by Cleadon pond (before 1936).	55
Plate 35:	Church of England Primary School floor-plan.	57
Plate 36:	Church of England Primary School aerial view.....	58
Back page	An aerial photograph of Cleadon Village as it is today.....	65

Acknowledgements:

I am grateful to:

- Joan Green, former head mistress of Oakleigh Gardens School, for the photograph and information about her school,
- Isa Gilchrist (a much loved and devoted member of Cleadon Methodist Church) for the copy of her sister Evelyn Blackett's school essay about events around the *Battle of Boldon Hill* during the English Civil War,
- Sybil Reeder for permission to reproduce photographs from her booklet with F. A. Fletcher 'Pictures of Cleadon Village: A look back in time', 1994,
- Cleadon Village History Society for information and photographs from their archive,
- Craig@Fitzarchitects for the drawings of the Old Schoolroom,

and friends who have provided fascinating information and helped me to put this document together.

Introduction The Log Book of Cleadon Church School

As part of the Cleadon Village Atlas project a visit was made to the Discovery Museum archives in Newcastle, which holds the original log book of Cleadon Church School. This gives us fascinating insights into the day to day happenings in the old Parochial School building where a single teacher was in charge of a mixed group of children, many from an agricultural background in a very small village. This first teacher was Miss Welch. We read of her efforts to give these children an education.

Since it was a Church School the Rector from Whitburn called in almost every week. From time to time a lady from one of the big houses would visit. She might help with needlework or hear children read, or distribute prizes. And Her Majesty's Inspectors made regular visits, tested the children and assessed their progress.

The log continues from 1903 recording happenings in a newly built school, now known as the "Old Schoolroom".

The following pages include excerpts from the log book along with a few notes and comments from the point of view of a retired teacher who taught at Cleadon Junior Mixed School from 1958 until 1992.

I have included brief comments about the other schools in the village (though without mention of a very early private school on West Park Road), a piece concerned with World War I and also memories from a few Cleadon residents who were at school here in the 1930s.

Each glimpse into the past raises questions, with so much more to be uncovered.

Kathleen Robinson

March 2014

Part 1 The Schools in Cleadon Village

There have been six school buildings in Cleadon Village



*Plate 1: Former Parochial School then Church School [newspaper article, 1930?]
"A century old school" then the Parish Hall/Village Institute.*

A. Cleadon Parochial School

built next to the 'Lake' on the Sunderland to South Shields turnpike about 1830, used as a school for ages from 5 - 13 years. From 1872 to 1903 these premises were the home of Cleadon Church School. Thereafter it became the Parish Hall or Village Institute until it was demolished in 1938.



Plate 2: The "Old" Schoolroom, Church School then C of E Infants School.

B. A new two-roomed school

On Sunderland Road, on the south side of the Church School, which we now know as 'The Old Schoolroom', used from 1903 - 1908 for all ages. From 1908-1963 it was the Church of England Infants School, for children aged 5 and 6.



Plate 3: National "Council" School then C of E Infants School.

C. The Council School [sometimes called the National School or the Big School]

built on Cleadon Lane in 1908, at first for children aged 7 - 13. Later it became Cleadon Junior Mixed School for children aged 7 - 11 years. In 1963 these juniors moved to a new school on Boldon Lane and the building became home to Cleadon Church of England Infants.



Plate 4: County Junior Mixed School.

D. Cleadon County Junior Mixed School

opened September 1963. It was built on the north and east section of a large site on Boldon Lane. After a few years a western section of the playing fields was sold. Malvern Court was built here. In 2007 this school building was demolished.



Plate 5: Church of England Primary School then Church of England Academy.

E. Cleadon Church of England Primary School/Academy

built on the south side of the site on Boldon Lane. The new school opened in 2007 for children from 5 - 11 years. From September 2014 this school has become Cleadon Church of England Academy.



Plate 6: Oakleigh Gardens School.

F. Oakleigh Gardens School

Education facilities for severely handicapped were not developed until 1955. In 1959 two cottages of the Oakleigh Gardens Cottage Homes on Sunnyside Lane became a *Junior Training Centre* and a work centre for adult males. In 1967 a larger building on the site allowed profoundly handicapped and wheelchair-bound children access for the first time, with a large purpose-built assembly hall and one of the first *special class units* in the area.

The *Training Centre* became **Oakleigh Gardens School** when funding moved to the Education Department following the 1970 Education Act that stated that no child could be excluded from the *Education Service*. The school closed in 2012.

Part 2 Education Acts

During the 19th century at the time of Gladstone and Disraeli, an idea was growing that every child should have the chance to learn to read and write. Many villages had no school at all. Some had a school run by the Church, but there were few opportunities for ordinary children.

In 1870 Parliament passed an Education Act setting up a *Board of Education* in every part of the country. Where there was no school the Board had to provide one. Where Church schools existed, these would receive a grant from the State. And all schools were to be inspected regularly.

Cleadon Church School opened in 1872, two years after the Act. It had existed previously as the Parochial School probably funded solely by the Church. Now, according to the log book, it seems that it opened officially, possibly aided by the Government grant. The school was visited regularly, sometimes weekly, by the Rector and there were regular inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Attendance at school was optional, until a further Education Act in 1880 made it compulsory for children from age 5 until the age of 13.

So in the early days attendance was rather haphazard. Reading the log, it is quite interesting to note the many references to the number of children present or absent and the reason for the absences. For example, "March 21st 1872 Very thin school owing to snow falling all day" Sometimes the wet weather was responsible, especially when the pond overflowed. Often "sickness" was the cause, "March 27th several children absent through having bad throats". An outbreak of measles kept many at home. There was a celebration in June with many visitors in the Village from neighbouring places. Miss Welch gave the children the afternoon off. After 1880 when attendance was compulsory we see the appearance of the School Board Man.

One hundred years after the first Education Act of Parliament, the 1970 Education Act stated that no child could be excluded from the Education Service. In Cleadon, as a result, the "Training Centre" on Sunnyside Lane, catering for the handicapped, became Oakleigh Gardens School, responsibility passing from the Health Service to the Education Department.

Part 3 Miss Welch At Cleadon Church School 1872 - 1874

A. The Log Book

Cleadon Church School opened January 8th, 1872. The teacher, Miss Welch kept the log, writing a sentence or two in her spidery copperplate when anything noteworthy happened.

1 18th/2
 January 8th Opened School for first time this morning 23 scholars present.
 " 10th Rev. W. Hitchcock visited the school and brought 2 dog reading books and 4 easy cards.
 " 15th 35 Scholars present this morning.
 " 19th Several children absent owing to the wet day.
 " 23rd Received 6 scripture prints, map, black board and stand for school this morning.
 " 25th Gave first Geography lesson this afternoon children much interested.
 " 29th Admitted 4 fresh scholars.
 February 2nd Average number present for the week 39.
 " 6th Rev. W. Hitchcock visited the school.
 " 7th Admitted 4 scholars.
 " 9th Average number present for the week 39.
 " 12th Admitted 2 scholars, Rev. W. Hitchcock visited the school.
 " 13th Several children absent owing to sickness.
 " 14th Received 4 new desks for the children.
 " 19th Admitted 2 scholars.
 " 20th Rev. W. Hitchcock visited school.
 " 22nd 12 children absent from sickness.
 " 23rd Average number present for week 33.
 " 26th Admitted 2 scholars.

Plate 7: Church School log book, opening (Discovery Museum Archives ref. E. CI 1/1/1).

B. The first weeks of official education in Cleadon (excerpts).

1872

- January 8th* *Opened School for first time this morning. 23 scholars present.*
- January 10th* *Revd. W.M. Hitchcock visited the school and brought 2 doz[en] reading books and 7 easy cards.*
- January 15th* *35 scholars present this morning.*
- January 19th* *Several children absent owing to the wet day.*
- January 23rd* *Received 6 scripture prints, map, black board and stand for school this morning.*
- January 25th* *Gave first Geography lesson this afternoon, children much interested.*
- January 29th* *Admitted 4 fresh scholars.*
- February 2nd* *Average number present for the week 39.*
- February 6th* *Revd. W.M. Hitchcock visited the school*
- February 7th* *Admitted 4 scholars*
- February 9th* *Average number present for the week 39*
- February 12th* *Admitted 2 scholars. Revd. W.M. Hitchcock visited the school.*
- February 13th* *Several children absent owing to sickness.*
- February 17th* *Received 4 new desks for the children.*
- February 19th* *Admitted 2 scholars.*
- February 20th* *Revd. W.M. Hitchcock visited school.*
- February 22nd* *12 children absent from sickness.*
- February 23rd* *Average number present for week 33*
- February 28th* *Gave the first and second classes an examination in spelling.*

March 4th Admitted 4 scholars

March 11th Taught the children to sing the 'Psalm of Life'

March 13th The Revd. W.M. Hitchcock visited the school

March 15th Average number present for the week 43.6, being the largest average since Christmas. Punished a boy for truant playing.

March 18th 44 Children present this morning. Admitted 2 children.

The first summer of the little school continued:

June 16th Revd. W. Raine Blenkinsop visited. Standard 2 commenced work yesterday.

June 29th Visited a dairy in the Village with standards 1 and 2 to see butter making.

July 14th This school is conducted very effectively in a kindly unobtrusive manner.
signed Elizabeth Jane West

July 16th Miss Pollard visited.

July 20th Revd W. Raine Blenkinsop visited.

July 21st Misses Pollard visited and watched the children at Banner Drill.

July 24th Holiday. Sunday Scholars had their annual treat at Whitburn.

July 30th Summer Holidays for 5 weeks.

So ends the record of the first 7 months of Cleadon Church School.

C. The School Building and its equipment

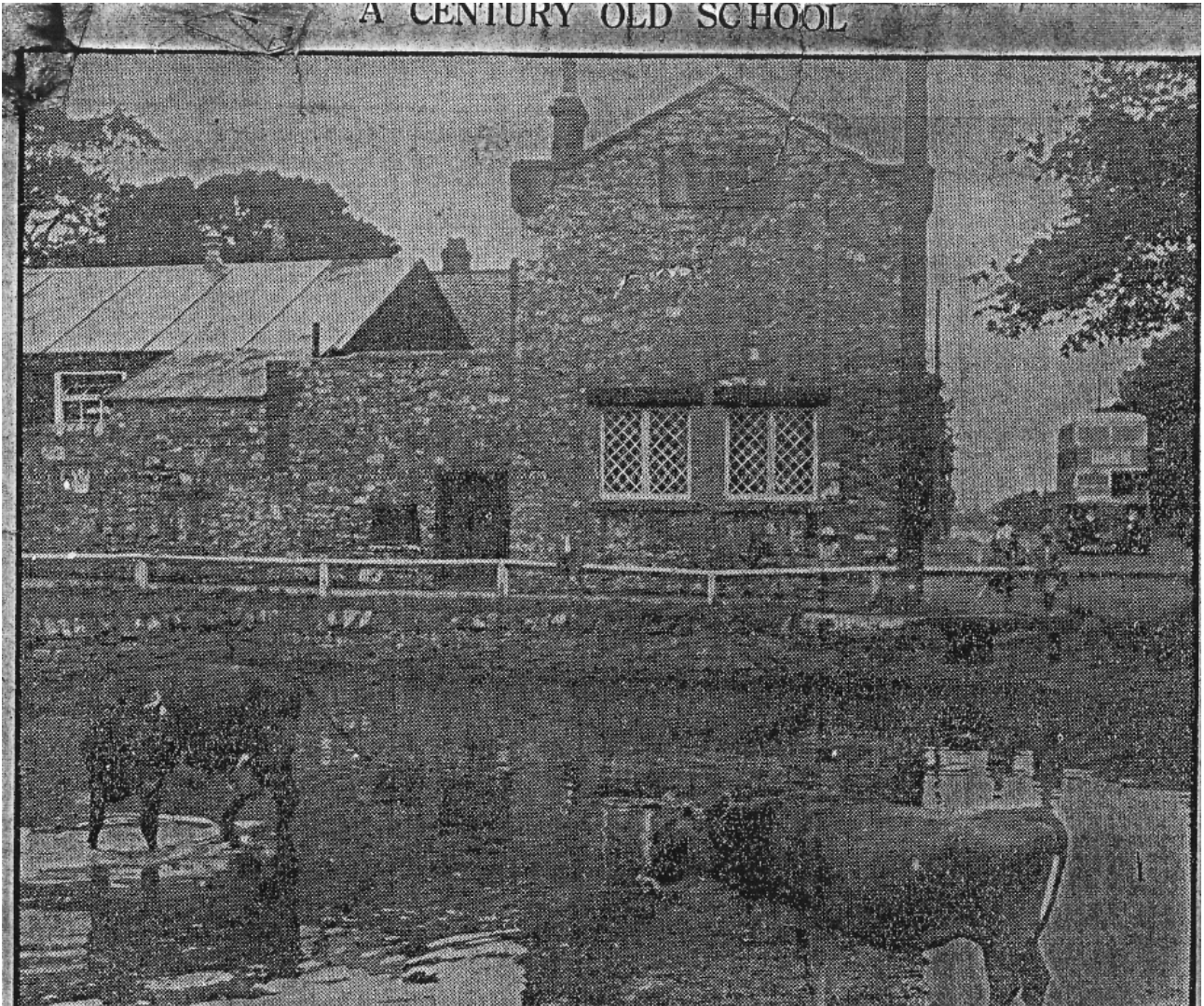


Plate 8: Parochial School and Church School (circa 1930).

This photograph is surely taken in 1930 celebrating the centenary of the Parochial School [see note 1, Part 10 C]. We can see that it was a tall square (two-storey?) stone building with chimneys (for fireplaces). The side wall edged the road where the Church Hall doorway is today. The front wall had two windows overlooking the pond, which was much larger in those days, jutting out across where Sunderland Road runs now, causing a sharp bend in the road.

The building was on low-lying land only just above the level of the pond and from the log record we know that there was dampness especially after heavy rainfall when the pond overflowed ...

September 25th Very small attendance this morning caused by the rain. The pond near the school door overflowed, children had to be helped out by planks, gave them holiday in the afternoon.

October 11th Holiday all day, the children not able to get into school, the water running into school from the pond.

At first there was only one teacher, Miss Welch. We don't know what furniture was there on January 8th, 1872. Maybe the children sat on wooden forms. We do know that 4 new desks were delivered on February 17th. What did they look like?

I remember the desks in use at Cleadon when I first began to teach in 1958. The teacher's high desk was square on four very long legs. At each side was a hinged shelf at the right height for a child to rest a book on when reading to the teacher. The children sat in pairs in wooden desks set in a heavy iron frame. There was an inkwell hole for each child, a groove for pen and pencil, and behind this a slot for a slate. The sloping top was permanently fixed, and underneath, near the child's knees, was a narrow shelf where books or papers could be rested. These frequently fell to the floor with a clatter.

Perhaps the 4 new desks were like that. Hopefully there would have been slates and slate pencils for practice in writing and sums. I wonder what books were in the school? Two days after the opening, on January 10th the teacher records that the rector, Revd W M Hitchcock, visited the school bringing 2 dozen reading books and 7 easy cards. Then on January 23rd Miss Welch received 6 scripture prints, a map and a blackboard and stand. [Two days later she gave her first geography lesson and noted 'the children were much interested'.

Miss Welch frequently noted teaching the children a song. I wonder whether there was a piano. The log book records a *new* piano on February 15th, 1903.

In September 1872 Her Majesty's Inspectors came. After commenting on the teaching and learning they remark that a sufficient number of ink pots should be provided, also accommodation for the safe-keeping of books. They warn that the pond, in front of the school, on a level with its floor, is a source of danger and care should be taken to prevent damp from it. They say the office must be cleaned out more frequently than has hitherto been the case.

On September 25th twelve new reading books were brought for Standard 1, being more advanced than those hitherto used.

The old Parochial School building continued in use until June 1903 when new premises, the school we know as the Old Schoolroom, was built.

D. School attendance... How many children?

The school opened January 8th 1872 with 23 children. A week later, January 15th, there were 35 in the class. After 4 weeks the average attendance was 39 pupils.

Just imagine 39 children aged 5 to 12 with one teacher. Many of them had been at school for only one term, some for only a few weeks, a few were complete beginners. Teaching them to read and write must have been a challenge.

Log book entries from 1872:

February 13th Several children absent owing to sickness.

February 22nd 12 children absent from sickness.

March 15th Average number for the week 43.6, being the largest average since Christmas. Punished a boy for truant playing.

March 18th 44 children present this morning. Admitted two children.

Mar 21st Very thin school owing to snow falling all day.

Mar 22nd Average number for the week 36.7

Mar 28th Average number for the week 35

EASTER HOLIDAYS

April 8th Resumed work after a week's rest. 51 children present.

April 19th Number of children absent owing to the rain and the wind.

April 30th Very thin school this morning owing to sickness in the village.

May 10th Average number present for the week 19.2 being the smallest attendance this year owing to sickness amongst children.

E. More lessons with Miss Welch

Since this was a Church School, the children were to be taught the Christian faith in addition to Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Music was also high on Miss Welch's agenda. She notes in her log:

March 11th Taught the children to sing "The Psalm of Life"

March 22nd Taught the children to sing 'The Crystal Spring', had great difficulty in keeping the right time.

April 12th Taught the children to sing 'The Memory of Friends'

Sept 17th Taught the children a new evening hymn.

This reminds me that in 1958 we still finished the day with a hymn in the hall.

The three Rs were predominant of course. Here are some more log entries:

Feb 28th Gave the 1st and 2nd Classes an examination in Spelling.

Mar 19th Examined Standard 3 in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, 5 children being present. The result was:

<i>Reading</i>	<i>5 passed</i>
<i>Writing</i>	<i>3 passed and 2 failed</i>
<i>Arithmetic</i>	<i>4 passed and 1 failed</i>

Mar 20th Examined Standard 2 in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, 8 children being present. The result was:

<i>Reading</i>	<i>8 passed</i>
<i>Writing</i>	<i>5 passed and three failed</i>
<i>Arithmetic</i>	<i>2 passed and 6 failed</i>

Mar 26th Examined Standard 1 in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Mar 27th Examined all the children on the life of Moses. Several children absent through having bad throats.

Mar 28th Average number present for the week 35.

So ended the first term. School now broke up for the EASTER HOLIDAYS, which lasted for one week.

Throughout the first year the Rector, Revd. W.M. Hitchcock called in, usually every week, to make sure that all was well. He was the Rector at Whitburn Parish Church. Do you suppose he walked to Cleadon each week. [The church in Cleadon at that time was only a Chapel of Ease.]

June 3rd Her Majesty's Inspector, Mr. T.S. Alder, visited and inspected the school. A summary of his report was written in the log book by Revd. Hitchcock:

[a few words are difficult to decipher]

June 3rd 1872 24% have passed in Arithmetic.....66% in Writing . This is perhaps due to the short time Miss Welch has had charge of the school. Great improvement next year will show that it is so. The singing..... seemed good. A sufficient number of ink pots should be provided, also accommodation for the safe-keeping of books. The pond in front of the school, on a level with its floor is a source of danger and care should be taken to prevent damp from it. The office must be cleaned out more frequently than has hitherto been the case. Improvement in Writing and Arithmetic will be needed to secure an unreduced grant next year.

Signed Revd. W. Hitchcock Rector Manager

A new school year - September 1872

- Sept 4th Resumed work on Monday after a month's holiday. Very thin school owing to the wet weather and the elder children working at the Harvest.*
- Sept 9th Admitted 2 children. Much better school than last week, order very difficult to keep. Kept 2 boys in half an hour for coming late in the afternoon. Gave Standard 3 a lesson in compound short division*
- Sept 17th Taught the children a new evening hymn.*
- Sept 25th Very small attendance this morning caused by the rain. The Pond near the school overflowed, children had to be helped out of school by planks, gave them holiday in the afternoon.*
- Oct 11th Holiday all day, the children not able to get into school, the water running into school from the Pond.*

Again on December 17th 1872 there was "no school, children not able to get into school for the water from the pond."

- Dec 20th Christmas vacations from today, children pleased. Urged upon them the necessity of coming to school regularly.*

CHRISTMAS VACATIONS

January - August 1873

- January 1873 brings a fresh start. Miss Welch is obviously concentrating on standards in arithmetic, writing, a forthcoming Scripture examination and regular attendance.
- Jan 6th 1873 Resumed school work this morning after a fortnight's rest. Gave Standard 1 a lesson in simple subtraction. Sent after the absentees.*
- Jan 10th Gave 5 books as prizes for Regularity, Punctuality and general good conduct. promised to give some more in 6 months to encourage the children to come to school.*
- Jan 13th Read out notice of the Scripture examination and fastened it up in the school.*
- Jan 27th The masons at work repairing the roof of the school.*
- Feb 10th Twelve children commenced writing in copy books, writing not at all satisfactory.*
- Feb 14th Revd. J. Lewis gave the first and second classes a Scripture lesson. The Revd. .M. Hitchcock visited the school in the afternoon. Average number for the week 26.*
- Feb 21st Examined Standard 1 in arithmetic. Two thirds of the children got all the sums right that were given to them.*

Glimpses into school in Cleadon Village

Feb 28th *Average number present for the week 30, the biggest number since the Summer vacations.*

March 13th *Mrs. Scott visited the school and examined the needlework and copy books.*

March 18th *Mrs. Scott visited the school and took Standard 1 in Reading and Writing.*

May 9th *Average number present for the week 38.*

May 14th *Received one packet of Moffatt's Arithmetical test cards for Standard 3.*

May 30th *Average number present for the week 42.*

June 9th *Received the examination papers.*

June 16th *Received notice that the examination is postponed from June 16th to June 26th.*

June 23rd *Admitted 2 new scholars and sent after the absent ones.*

June 25th *Very few children at school, so many visitors being in the Village*

H.M.I. report July 1873 *"This school is conducted very effectively in a kindly unobtrusive manner*
signed Elizabeth Jane West

August 7th 1873 *Summary of Inspector's report*

The children in this little school have made fair progress. The ... singing ... ? must improve or my Lords may be unable to regard article 32b as properly achieved. Miss Welch will shortly receive her certificate.

signed W.M. Hitchcock

Miss Welch was the teacher at the Parochial School for two and a half years. In Sept 1874 a new teacher is in charge. Her handwriting in the log book is different, more rounded. On Sept 15th Standard 3 have a lesson in compound subtraction and on Sept 22nd Standard 2 learn division.

Part 4 A New Schoolroom (1903)... now known as The Old Schoolroom



Plate 9: The Old Schoolroom.

The Summer of 1903 brought a great event in the life of Cleadon's children and teacher, a move from the old Parochial School to new premises: the building we now know as the Old Schoolroom. This came after a two-day holiday for Whitsuntide. We can imagine the packing of books, slates, pens, ink wells [cleaned out], bottles of ink, etc. before the weekend, and during the two holidays heavy desks, the globe, cupboards, possibly even a piano, being carried by workmen into a new, light, airy, beautiful schoolroom.



Elevation to Sunderland Road.

Plate 10: The Old Schoolroom: west elevation.

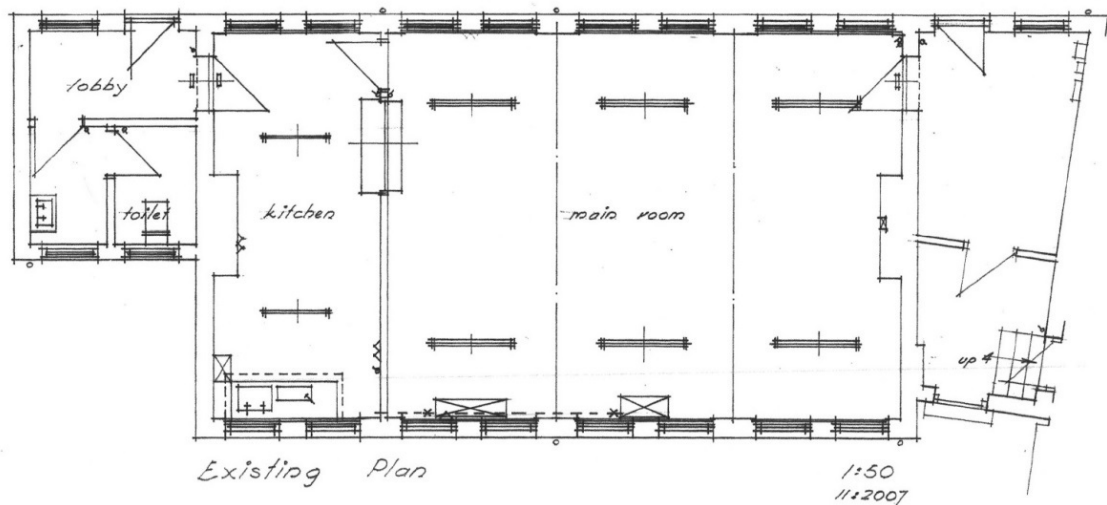


Plate 11: The Old Schoolroom: floor-plan.

This architect's drawing [from 2007] shows that there would originally have been one rectangular room, with a fireplace and chimney at either end. At each end was a cloakroom with a door at the front opening onto the main road and a rear door opening onto the yard. Children always came into school through the yard where the children's toilets were located.



X Originally there was a door into the yard here.

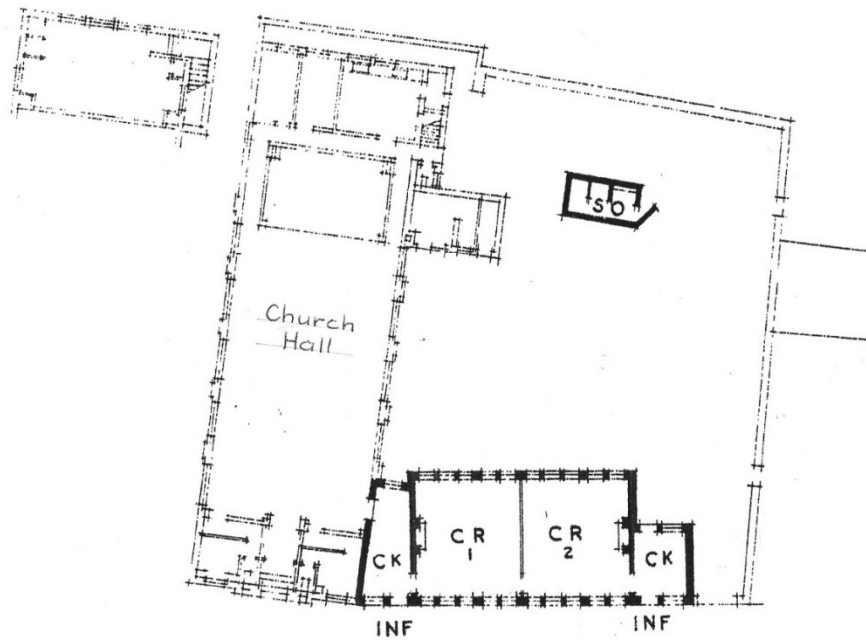
Elevation to Playground.

Plate 12: The Old Schoolroom: east elevation.

C L E A D O N C . E . S C H O O L .

C.C. N^o. 2 4 6.

M.E. N^o. 3 4 2.



Given to me by Brian Sage.

Plate 13: The Old Schoolroom: plan with church hall.



Plate 14: Infants School, date unknown. [Cleadon History Society]

Some very young children at the front, 21 altogether. Could this be the entire Infants School or is it one class in the new schoolroom? The teacher on the right is Miss West. Could the young woman at the left be a pupil teacher?



Plate 15: *Infants School, Pupils of Standard 1, July 1911. [Reeder and Fletcher]*
 Miss West, and Miss Todd were amongst the first rail-commuters, travelling from Millfield each day to Cleadon Lane station (now called East Boldon), and then walking across the fields to the school. Miss West, as headmistress, received very favourable HMI and Diocesan reports: 19th December 1904 and 24th January 1905 (see page 29).



Plate 16: *Infants School, 1928. [Reeder and Fletcher]*
 photograph taken outside the wooden church hall
 back row: George Purvis, Fred Herbert, John Metcalfe, Robert Frecker
 third row: Elsie Wilson, Marjorie Egleston, Joan Oliver*, Margaret Paxton
 [*daughter of headmaster Maurice Oliver]
 second row: Harry Baker, Brenda Lundgren, Sheila Daly, Leslie Brown

front row: Peggy Slade, Cecil Wilkinson, Vida Green



Plate 17: Infants School, Empire Day 1931. [M. Forsyth]

Mrs Davidson's or Miss Tones' class? Including: Jean Jennings, P. Buxton, Brain (sic) Stark, Marjorie Meek, Peggy Anderson, Elsie Wilson, Rosie Ridley.

A. A new building June 3rd and an additional teacher June 15th.

Very little fuss is made in the log book of the move to a new building, between May 29th and June 3rd. No line is drawn to mark the end of an era, no capital letters to announce a new beginning.

Here is the log for that period:

- May 1st 1903 Children learning words of new hymn "Do no sinful action"*
- May 8th Miss Pollard visited this morning*
- May 18th Miss Pollard visited this morning and heard 2nd class read*
- May 25th Revd. W. Raine Blenkinsop visited.*
- May 28th H.M. I. J. Foster visited this afternoon*
- May 29th Closed this afternoon until Wednesday morning.*
- June 1st and 2nd Whitsuntide holiday*
- June 3rd Re-opened this morning in new schoolroom. New registers, Admitted 2 children. Revd. W. Raine Blenkinsop visited.*
- June 8th Received new reading books, copy books, answering cards, pencils etc. for use in Standard 2 and Standard 1.*
- June 9th Admitted 1 child.*
- June 11th Revd. Canon Moore Ede visited.*
- June 12th Revd. W. Raine Blenkinsop visited.*
- June 15th Received 6 new books. Arranged classes to work by new timetables. Miss Ethel Leadbitter commenced duties this morning.*

Another innovation! There are now 2 teachers in the little school. It is possible that the two classes were together in the long classroom, younger children facing one end, more advanced pupils facing the other way. We read in the log of January 1905 that workmen erected a screen. That must have given each class some privacy. We know that there was a coke burning fire at the end wall of each classroom to provide some warmth, and eventually, May 9th 1905, fireguards were put in place.

Were there any burnt fingers before this?

This school building became Cleadon Church of England Infants in 1908 and continued as such until the move to the bigger school on Boldon Lane in 1963.

Part 5 The Dreaded Inspections ...some reports between 1872 and 1904

[The writing in the log book is not always clear. Some parts were not easy to read.]

Miss Welch and the school were subject to inspections by two authorities: Her Majesty's Inspectors and the Diocesan Inspectors.

H.M.I. report July 1872 "This school is conducted very effectively in a kindly unobtrusive manner"

signed Elizabeth Jane West.

June 3rd 1872 School inspected by T.S. Alder H.M. Inspector

September 3rd 1872 Summary of the Inspector's report on the school:

Not 24% have passed in Arithmetic.....66% in writing. This is perhaps due to the short time Miss Welch has had charge of the school. Great improvement next year will show that this is so. The seemed good. A sufficient number of ink pots should be provided, also accommodation for the safe keeping of books. The Pond in front of the school, on a level with its floor is a source of danger, and care should be taken to prevent damp from it. The office must be cleaned out more frequently than hitherto has been the case.

Improvement in Writing and Arithmetic will secure an unreduced grant next year.

Signed Revd. W.M. Hitchcock Rector Manager

August 17th 1873

The children in this little school have made fair progress. Thesinging.....? must improve or my Lords may be unable to regard article 32b as properly achieved. Miss Welch will shortly receive her certificate.

signed W.M. Hitchcock

March 14th 1874

Some of the children in the first class answered well; the younger ones fairly, while further attention might be given to the infants. The repetition of the Catechism, Texts etc. was generally good.

Date this 14th day of March 1874

I.A. Richton, Diocesan Inspector

Signed W.M. Hitchcock

Schools inspected June 16th 1874 T.S. Aldis H.M. Inspector

Summary of Inspector's report:

The children have passed a pretty fair examination. The Infants are very backward. More attention must be paid to them another year. Suitable cards or books should be provided for them.

Signed W.M. Hitchcock July 18th 1874

These were inspections that Miss Welch received. Throughout the log book the reports continue:

March 1875 Copy of the report of the Diocesan Inspector:

Number of children presented 41. The children generally passed a very fair examination. Had made progress both in the subjects prepared and the way in which they knew them. of the first class some answered really well. The repetition of texts and of the Catechism was generally correct. The Infants will need more instruction in simple Bible stories etc.

Dated this 13th day of March 1875

I. Arthur Rushton Diocesan Inspector

June 29th 1875 School inspected H.G. Oakeley

Summary of Inspector's report: The children have passed a creditable examination. The average attendance must not be allowed to exceed 38 in the present premises. Mrs. Cooke will shortly receive her certificate.

Signed W.M. Hitchcock August 14th 1875

June 28th 1877 School inspected H.G. Oakeley

Summary of report: The order is very fair and the school has improved. The children between 6 and 7 years of age are rather backward. I am to state that my Lords will be compelled to withhold the entire grant next year if the average then exceeds the limits prescribed by article 17c.

Signed W.M. Hitchcock

August 1877 Elizabeth Holden Shepherd class certificate, School Mistress.

March 12th 1878 *Copy of report of the Diocesan Inspector*

<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>good knowledge of facts</i>
<i>New testament</i>	<i>ditto</i>
<i>Catechism</i>	<i>wants explanation</i>
<i>Repetition</i>	<i>good</i>

General remarks: It was evident that a great deal of pains had been taken with the elementary religious instruction and the school was decidedly improved since I had last seen it, even the very little children answering questions readily and correctly.

The object that needs keeping in view is to arouse the intelligence of the children and to make them use their heads as well as their memories.

signed W.M. Hitchcock March 12th 1878

July 12th 1878 *Summary of Inspector's report:*

The children are orderly and have passed very fairly in Reading and Writing but poorly in Arithmetic. Improvement in this last respect will be looked for next year. The Reading of the Infants also should improve or the grant for next year will be endangered. The Singing is not very perfect. The whole school might with advantage be taught some more physical exercises. Maps of Durham and the World and a better admission register should be provided.

signed W.M. Hitchcock July 12 1878

H.M.I.Report December 19th 1904

The school is pleasantly conducted; the children are interested in their work and make creditable progress. Small pieces of pencil should not be used. The additional teacher should make herself acquainted with good methods of teaching and put them into practice. It would be well if she paid a few visits of observation to some good Infants' Schools in the neighbourhood. Fireguards for the stoves should be provided. Miss A.M.Brown is recognised as a Supplementary Teacher [Schedule 1 of the code]

Signed J.F. Towman [Revd.]

Staff: Elizabeth Jane West

Add. Mary Brown S.A.

Report of Religious Instruction Jan 24th 1905

<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
<i>Catechism</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
<i>Repetition</i>	<i>Excellent</i>

The children passed an excellent examination and the tone of the school is gentle and helpful. The Repetition was particularly good even the youngest ones speaking clearly Special attention had been paid to oral and spiritual lessons and the syllabus drawn up was excellent.

Signed L.L. Barclay Diocesan Inspector

Part 6 Cleadon Council School 1908

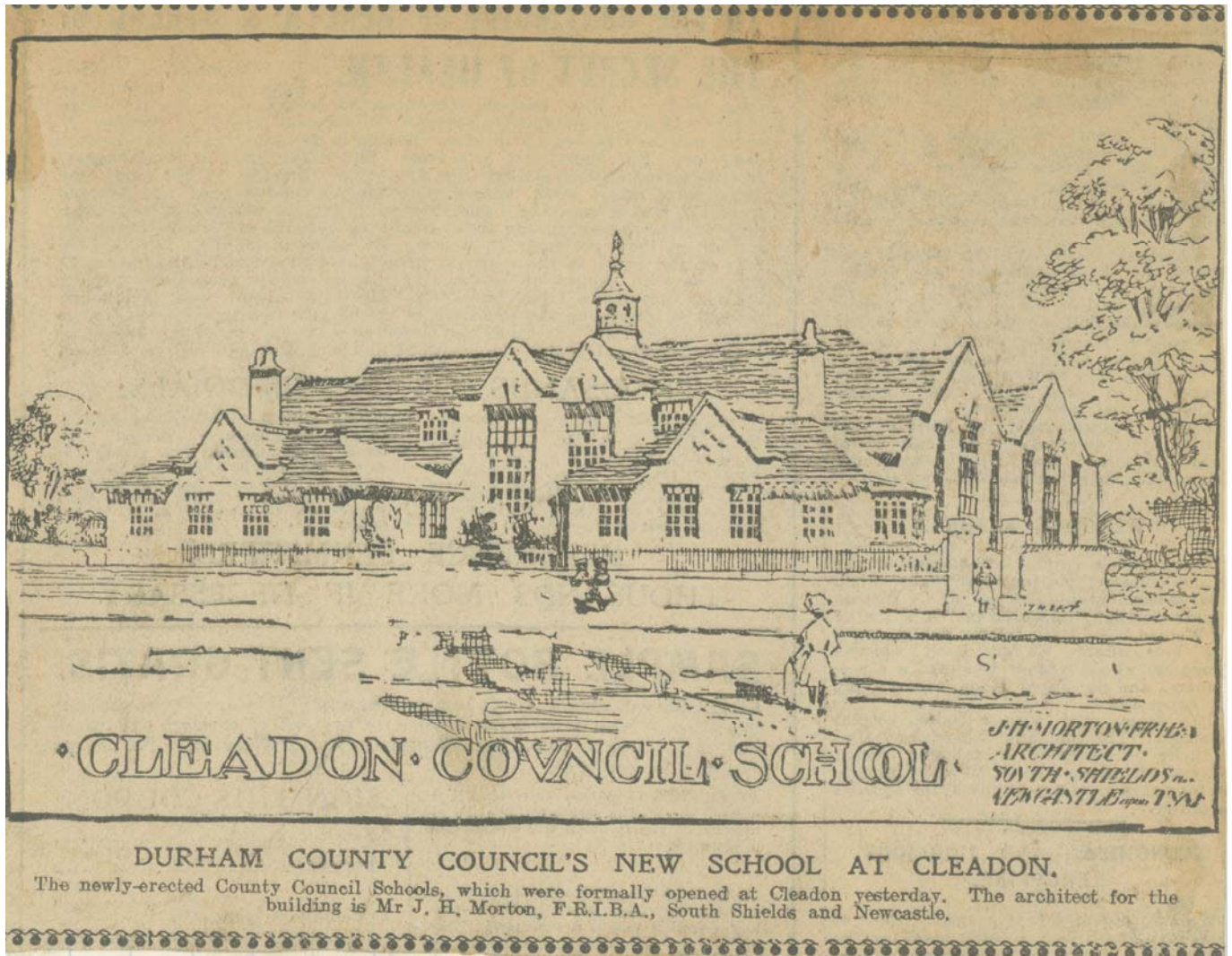


Plate 18: The Council School (Discovery Museum Archives ref. E. Cl 2/1).

Sometimes called 'The Big School' or 'Cleadon National School' the school was built on Cleadon Lane for children aged 7 to 13. Opened in 1908 by Mrs Pollard of The Grange, Cleadon, Mr. Thompson [Chairman of the Sunderland Rural District Council] mentioned that the new school was rendered necessary in consequence of the South Shields Guardians having built their new Cottage Homes for children in that neighbourhood. The Head Teacher, Mr. J. R. Robson wrote in a new log book, "*This morning I opened the Cleadon Council School for the admission and attendance of scholars, and at 3.30pm the formal opening took place. 96 scholars were admitted.*" (ref. E. CL2/1), Later the school fulfilled the 1944 Education Act in providing secondary schooling for all children aged 11 – 14 years.

The school consisted of a central hall with 6 classrooms around it, one of which was also a kitchen or domestic science room. There were cloakrooms, a head teacher's room, a staffroom, and various store cupboards. The heating was from cast iron radiators fed from the boiler room. Boys' and Girls' entrances were on separate sides and the children were kept separate at playtimes by a

wall down the centre of the yard. This wall was gone by the time I taught there in 1958 and in fine weather the children were able to play happily under the trees on the grass beyond.

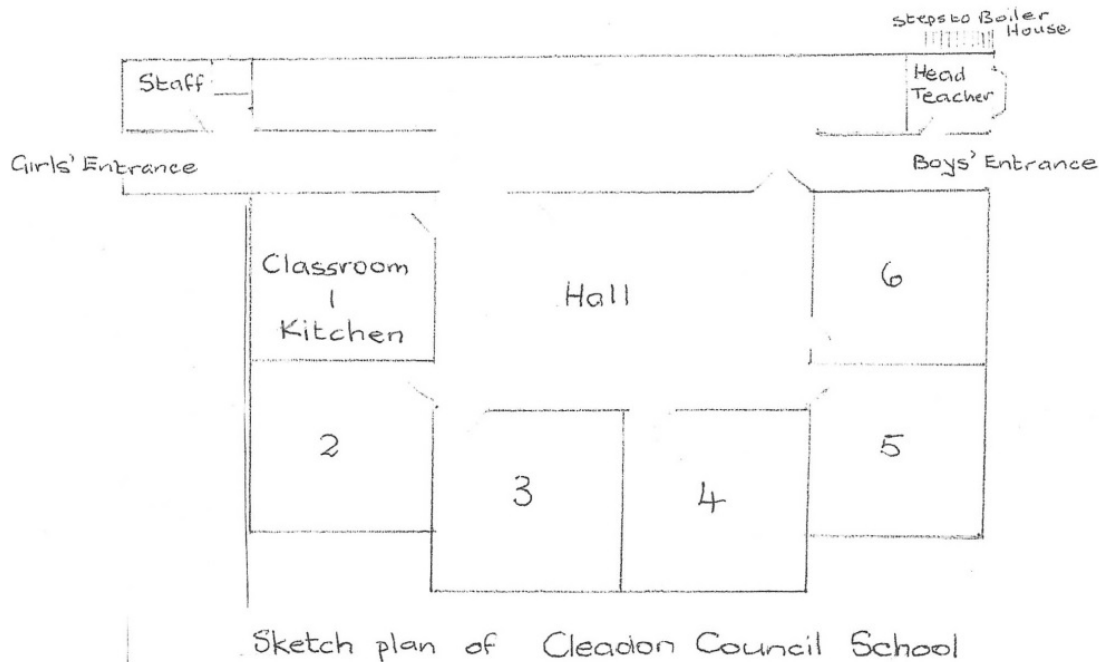


Plate 19: Council School: sketch of floor-plan. [KR]



Plate 20: Council School, 1921. [Isa Gilchrist]

Head teacher, Frederick Hill, sports a little moustache and a bow tie. One pocket is stuffed with something white. Notice the boots and shoes of the children. Do you suppose they were asked to polish them the day the photographer was coming?



*Plate 21: Council School, date unknown.
Twenty eight children with the head teacher, Mr. Hill. Children smiling, looking cheerful, especially the brother and sister [?] at the right of the middle row.*



*Plate 22: Council School, 1924? [Sybil Reeder and F. A. Fletcher]
Date unknown. Mr. Hill standing on the right, a lady teacher on the left. Some older children here, perhaps 11, 12, or 13 years. Could some of the girls on the front row wearing a plaid overall have come from the Cottage Homes?*



*Plate 23: Council School, Football Champions 1935 - 36. [Reeder and Fletcher]
The masters are: left Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Oliver, right Mr. Dodds and Mr. Neasham; boys: back row: Ron Wilkinson, Geo. Graham, Ron Fleming, Richard Millar, ?, Adamson: middle row: Robert Ayton, ?, Robert Rutherford, Geo. Purvis, Joseph Davenport: front row: William Davison, Leslie Brown, Les. Fleming, Douglas Todd, Gordon Ward.*



*Plate 24: Council School netball team in the 1930s. [Reeder and Fletcher]
back row: Peggy Croft, Miss Edmondson, Mary Ransom
front row: Chrissie Ward, Vera Humphreys, Joan Moore, Rita Richardson, Lily Dick.
(Miss Edmondson later married Mr. Dodds, one of the masters in the top picture.)*

A. Frederick Hill

The teacher with the little moustache has been identified as Frederick Hill. He was the headmaster of Cleadon Council School from 1919 - 1926. A Washington man, an exceptional teacher, with a keen interest in history. He was responsible for saving Washington Old Hall from demolition and for contributing to its restoration. His remarkable story is told by Sheila Arbuckle in her booklet, 'Frederick Hill and Washington Old Hall' ISBN 0-9551019 - 0 5. Cleadon was privileged to have him as headmaster.

Evelyn Blackett's essay in the next section, a description of military action in the North East during the Civil War, shows evidence of real historical enquiry or possibly a way of engaging the imagination of children in their local history. It seems likely to have been one of Frederick Hill's lessons.



Plate 27: *The Cottage Homes, date unknown.*

Part 7 Cleadon Schools 1914 ... 1918 ... 1922

A. Log Book Entries 1914 - 1918

Here are some log book entries from the Infants school [Cleadon Church of England School]

August 10th 1914 Unable to resume duties as school is occupied by the Military.

Nov. 27th Mr. Edrington visited this morning to make arrangements for the children of Whitburn C of E Infants School to attend this school every morning from 9 till 12 as the Whitburn Schools are occupied by the Military Authorities. Cleadon Children will attend every afternoon from 1 till 4 until further notice.

Mar. 1st 1915 Children to attend alternately, one week in the mornings and the next in the afternoons.

March As the Cottage Homes are occupied by the Military the children have been withdrawn from school and sent to other districts.

November 11th 1918 Only 11 children at school this afternoon.

Closed for the remainder of the week to celebrate the great victory of the Allied Armies.

Nov. 18th We opened this morning with 16 children. Several children ill with influenza.

Nov. 20th Received instructions to close school until 29th inst. on account of the Influenza.

Closed until the end of the Christmas Holidays.

Opened January 7th 1919 23 children present.

B. Evelyn Blackett

The piece of school work shown on the opposite page was written in June 1922 by Evelyn Blackett, a pupil of Cleadon Council School. It gives an interesting insight into the history that was being taught to 13 year olds at that time: the Civil War in England and its effect on our local North East.

During the years of the Great War, as the log book entries tell, the school was occupied by the Military for a short time, before moving to the schools at Whitburn. Then the children from Whitburn had to attend our school at Cleadon: Whitburn children in the mornings, Cleadon children in the afternoons. From March 1st a fairer arrangement was agreed: the children would attend alternately, one week in the mornings and the next in the afternoons.

Since Evelyn was born in 1909 she probably started school as an infant in 1914, and experienced half time education for her first 4 years.



Plate 26: Council School, 1921. [Isa Gilchrist]

It is likely that Evelyn Blackett, aged 12, is on this photograph, possibly third or fourth from the left in the front row.

Evelyn progressed into nursing and eventually became Tutor Sister at the Ingham Infirmary. She married at the age of 60 and went to live in Scarborough with her husband.

class 82.

Evelyn Agnes Blackett. 13th 0th Mos:

During the civil War between Charles I and Parliament, the Scots, who opposed to the Royalist, captured Sunderland on March 4th 1642.

The Marquis of Newcastle, with 14,000 of the King's supporters, marched against them and up a strong position on the Boldon Hills.

The Scots thereupon drew out of Sunderland and occupied the Cleadon Hills.

For two days numerous skirmishes took place between the rival forces, fighting occurring at West Boldon, East Boldon, Felwell and Cleadon, but there was no decisive engagement.

Then the Marquis, after firing the villages, retired towards Durham, while the Scots retired to Sunderland.

Later, the Parliamentarians hotly attacked the Fort at South Shields which was held for the King, and after a week of strenuous fighting captured it, the Royalist survivors managing to escape across the river to Tynemouth castle.

As a result of the civil War Charles I was executed on January 30th 1649, and Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England.

Date written - May 1922

Birth 30/6/1909 Death 15/5/2005.

Part 8 Oakleigh Gardens School.



Plate 28: Oakleigh Gardens School. [Joan Green]

Joan Green, former head mistress of the school, provided this photograph and short account of Oakleigh Gardens Special School:

In the early 1950's there were no day-time resources in South Shields for severely handicapped children. While children with a moderate handicap were taught in special schools the severely handicapped were excluded from education and remained at home. The families were supported with visits from health visitors and social workers. Many loving families were obliged to place their children in large institutions such as Prudhoe Hospital and visit them once a month, on visiting day.

Mrs Irene Houlton, who pioneered the service, was appointed in 1955. She was to visit the families and offer extra home-based support. By 1957 she had acquired the part-time use of a hall at the Nook (Cleadon Park, South Shields) where, with the help of two assistants: Mrs Irene Hesketh and Miss Joan Aichison (now Mrs Green), group activities could be organized. The remaining part of the week continued with home-based activities.

At that time the site at Oakleigh Gardens Cottage Homes in Cleadon village had multiple occupation but residents were gradually being re-housed in new facilities, in community settings within the town. A large house at the Sunnyside entrance was a residential home for babies and toddlers in care. This was known as the Gabbitts Nursery. A couple of cottages were occupied by teenage boys who attended Cleadon Park Senior School, while the absence of young girls on the site left two cottages empty. The northern part of the site was a residential home for elderly ladies. These were relocated to a purpose-built home in Gerald Street, Whiteleas, South Shields.

In 1959, with the support of South Shields County Borough, two empty cottages were refurbished and Mrs Hoult and her small staff were able to operate a full-time day resource for the children. Bus transport was organized and an extra bus escort/care assistant was added to the staff. Container meals were organized for lunch-time. The children remained excluded from the Education System. With funding coming from Health Department resources, the "school" was named a Junior Training Centre.

Funding from the Social Services Department allowed a further building to be refurbished to become a work centre for adult males, with a focus on woodwork and gardening.

Nationwide there were specialist teaching courses at colleges in Newcastle, Sheffield and London. Established staff were able to engage in professional training and were awarded a recognized specialist teaching diploma.

By the mid 1960's there were additional staff but the numbers of children attending had grown considerably and the classrooms and dining areas were overcrowded.

The children from the Gabbitas Nursery had been relocated to a new home in Bisley Drive, Brinkburn and the larger building was empty. Again with the support of the South Shields County Borough, this building was refurbished with appropriate classroom and dining areas. A large purpose-built assembly hall was added and one of the first special care units in the area. This allowed profoundly handicapped and wheelchair-bound children access for the first time. Staff and children moved to this new facility in 1967.

In 1970 a new Education Act was passed, which stated that no child could be excluded from the Education Service. The Oakleigh Gardens facility was inspected and staff diplomas scrutinized, and what had been known as a "Training Centre" was officially renamed a "school". In 1971 responsibility for funding moved from the Health Service to the Education Department and Oakleigh Gardens School was resourced like all schools in the borough.

The school had become well-known not just locally but regionally, too, and became a training resource for professional students. Linking with colleges in Sunderland, Newcastle and Durham, trainee teachers and nursery nurses worked alongside the staff for their practical placements, with visits from their college tutors.

The school had also become a central point for other professionals in the borough, endeavouring to meet the needs of the children and their families.

The main purpose of the school was education and links were made with a team of educational psychologists and teachers of the hearing and visually impaired. Health department professionals were regular visitors: school nurses, health visitors, speech therapists and physiotherapists, together with the occupational consultant clinic. There were links with the Social Services Department and family social workers. It became a venue for important case conferences.

As the number of children continued to grow Mrs Hoult, with the elected governing body, appointed more staff: teachers, nursery nurses, a full-time school nurse, clerical help, a caretaker, cleaners and, finally, a fully staffed kitchen. Staff had grown from 3 to 30, with many additional visiting professionals.



*Plate 29: The Cottage Homes, date unknown.
A group of children outside the Cottage Homes. Boys and girls lived in separate houses, up to 12 children in a house. I can count 14 boys in this picture.*

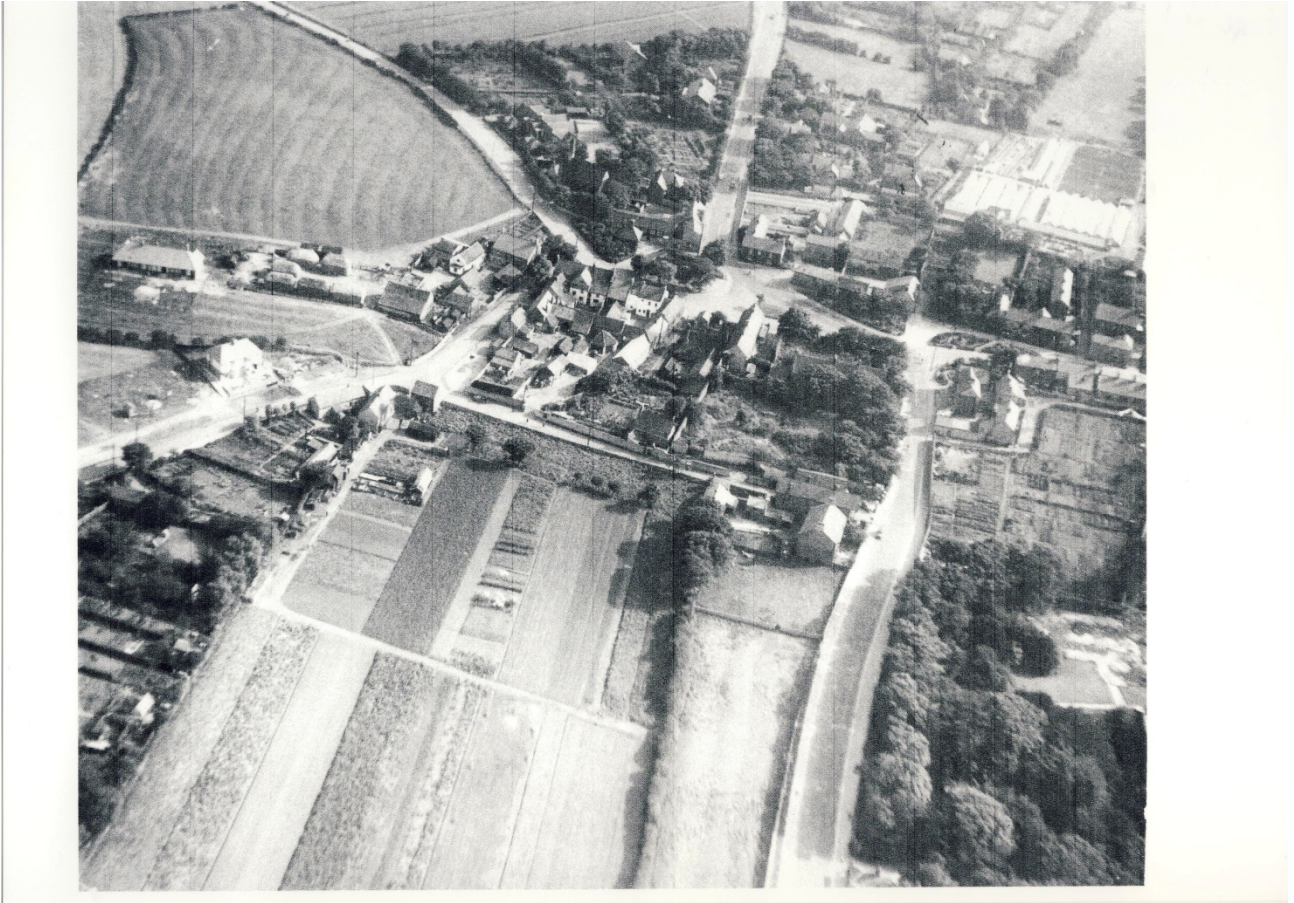


Plate 30: An aerial photograph of Cleadon Village 1926 from the north. The road coming in at the top left from Whitburn passes the Council School and All Saints Church, then dips down towards the Pond. Turning the corner left, you can see the Parochial School building and the 'Old Schoolroom'. Hidden amongst trees to the right is the Methodist Church. The Ship Inn is clearly visible, as is the Britannia. Coming down the road towards South Shields, Cleadon Meadows is amongst the trees.

Part 9 Memories of Schooldays in the 1930s

Recollections of some Cleadon residents:

Olive Colwell and her brother Gordon Lawson, Hilda Brunton, June Roberts and David Oliver
(son of Maurice Oliver, head teacher of the Council School until 1955).

A. Olive's Story

Miss Tones was the Headmistress and Mrs. Davidson taught the younger children. She was an older lady and very caring. We liked her very much.

I remember the open fire surrounded by a very high fire guard. On a rainy day Mrs. Davidson would spread out our coats to dry on this rail.

We lived way up Burdon Rd. When the weather was really bad I remember our mother coming to school at lunchtime with a hot meal for me and my brother to save us the walk home and then back to school for half past one.

B. Gordon's Stories

Gordon remembers speaking to Miss Tones, the Headmistress on his first day at school [in 1932] saying proudly "I know how to spell aeroplane."

He remembers having the task, early in the morning, of giving out the slates, one for each child. These slates fitted into a slot in the desk behind the groove for a pen or pencil. After writing with a slate pencil you could clean away your work with a dry cloth but this left behind a grey surface so the slates were cleaned regularly with a damp cloth.

Another memory is putting his socks to dry on the fireguard after a particularly wet walk to school.

Gordon remembers the teachers as:

Infants School	Mrs. Tones
	Mrs. Davidson
Big School Headmaster	Pop Oliver
	Miss Stephenson
	Miss Edmundson
	Daddy Gardiner
	Mr. Neasham
	Mr. Dodds - Art

He remembers how strict Daddy Gardiner was, how he would hurl a piece of chalk at an inattentive boy. On one occasion when Gordon raised his hand to answer a question Mr. Gardiner roared out "Put your hand down boy!" His memories of Miss Stephenson are of a kindly teacher. She lived in the upper storey of the house where the Chemist's is now next door to the police house, but she retired to East Boldon where she never let any chance meeting with past pupils go by without stopping for a friendly chat.

Of course, when school was over the lads had great fun on the way home. Across the road from school, Cleadon Hall was a derelict building behind the ornamental iron gates where Cleadon Old Hall flats are now. Though forbidden to schoolboys, it was possible to squeeze through the railings and play about in the ruins and over-grown gardens of this 'Haunty'. Naturally all the more exciting because it was against the rules!

There were also ponds to explore. To the right of Boldon Lane, near Sandgrove, were three ponds, and here with a couple of oil drums, an old door and some rope Gordon and his pals built a raft and poled it about on the water. There was another pond down Laburnum Grove on the left. This was only a couple of feet deep, shallow enough to plodge in.

He remembers a pear tree on Whitburn Road laden with fruit. He and a friend managed to knock down quite a few pears and stuff them up their jerseys, only to see behind them the village policeman.... Copper Kay ... who pleasantly asked them, "What are you up to lads?" before pulling out their sweaters to let the fruit tumble to the ground.

Walking down Boldon Lane, the pavement petered out after Underhill Road. It became a track on a grassy bank separated from the fields [where the Leech estate is now] by a ditch. In fact there were ditches on both sides of the road, a dry ditch on the south side and a wet ditch on the north side. And of course Gordon and his sister Olive did that walk 4 times a day. The walk home in the short days of winter must have been dark.

It was a small village. People knew one another and were friendly. Gordon recalls having practised a piece to say at church about a beech tree. He had noticed a lovely copper beech in a garden at the end of Underhill Road. So he plucked up courage and knocked at the door of the house, explaining what he was going to do and asking if he could have a few twigs from the tree. The owner, very generous, went out and sawed off a great branch which Gordon proudly carried up to church.

Gordon also told me a story from his brother-in-law, Mr. Leslie Wilkinson, who had lived near The Ridgeway and had been a very keen member of Cleadon Boy Scouts, knowing many of the lads in the Village. One day he had been in trouble and was bothering his father who became exasperated with him and told him sharply to get out into the fresh air. "Hadaway to the turnpike," he said "and watch the buses!" We know that the Sunderland to Shields road was a turnpike road but it is interesting to hear the word used in everyday language. We wonder where the turnpike was. Could it have been near the Pond and Ship Inn in Cleadon? Could it have been between the Britannia and the cottage Tavern? Leslie's father, born about 1868, was obviously familiar with the place.

[Place names often remain for many years. I think about Black's Corner at East Boldon which still bears that name even though the original shop owned by Black is long gone.]

C. Hilda's Story

Hilda can remember writing a letter 'a' on her slate in the first class with Mrs. Davison. In the second class Miss Tones helped the children to make an Easter garden in a tray. Hilda remembered taking a small tree from her dolls' house for this garden and a mirror to make a pool of water.

D. June's Stories

June told me that the teachers she can remember are:

Infants school	Mrs. Davison Miss Tones
Junior school	Miss Stephenson Miss Tilly Miss Offord Miss Edmundson

and the scholarship class was taken by Mr. Gardiner [Daddy Gardiner] who was very strict, especially about homework. She can still hear him saying "You WILL know the rivers of Europe!" Children over 11 were taught by Mr. Dodds and Mr. Neasham. The Headmaster was Mr. Maurice Oliver. She remembers the children marching into the hall at the end of the day to sing the closing hymn, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Oliver.

June tells a story about herself as a 6 year old at the end of one school day. Her mother, very unusually, had decided to visit a friend in South Shields and knew she could not be back in time for June coming home. So she asked June if she could be clever enough to catch the bus in the Village and ask the conductor to put her off at the Morpeth Avenue bus stop where she would be waiting. This was all agreed and she gave June 6d for the bus fare. Coming out of the Infants School, June was feeling very grown up, proud and excited to be doing a bus journey on her own. Putting her hand in her pocket there was no 6d. She had lost it! What was she going to do? She knew her Mum would be waiting at Morpeth Avenue. So went into the Post Office and spoke to the Post Mistress, Violet Ayres [Sidgewick], who kindly lent her the 6d and saved the day.

June has kindly volunteered to write some of her memories for this document:

I started Cleadon Infants School in 1932 when Cleadon was a small village and everyone knew one another. I started school in Mrs. Davison's class. Mrs. Davison was a kind grey-haired lady who lived in Sunnyside Lane. All the children loved her. The school had two classrooms and each classroom had a black coke fire, the type that you could lift the lid to see the bright burning coke which kept the classroom warm.

We had reading lessons and spelling and did sums on slates. The desks were flat, wooden with the seats attached.

I was very happy and had lots of friends. We played in the school yard which is now the car park of the Church Hall. The toilets were across the yard and were not very nice.

When I was six we moved into Miss Tones' class. She was a lovely kind lady who was always very smart and happy. She was the headmistress. I remember we had singing time and story time as well as normal lessons. I told my Mum that sometimes I felt tired in the afternoon, and my Mum went to see Miss Tones to find out more about it. Miss Tones told my Mum that she would let all the class put their heads down for a short period each afternoon.

I can still remember the smell of orange peel burning in the coke stove which had a fireguard round it. I loved Miss Tones and asked her if she would come to my birthday party.

When I left the Infants to go to the Big School as it was called, I skipped Standard 1 and went into Standard 2. The teacher was Miss Stephenson who lived where the chemist's is now. I wasn't very happy at first because I got my sums wrong and had my hand slapped

and was told to do them again. I got them wrong again and had my hand slapped with ruler a second time. I did eventually get on well with Miss Stephenson.

When I moved into Standard 3, Miss Tilley was the teacher who I got on well with. Her father was a Director of Education, she lived at Whitburn. Miss Tilley taught us to write well, she considered it important, and we learned poems and took part in plays. I remember being the narrator when we did Hiawatha. I played a harp and wore a gold cloak made from a curtain.

At the big school we marched into school, each class going to their own classroom. Mr Oliver, the headmaster played the piano. One of the marches was 'Men of Harlech'. Again in the evening we collected in the hall before going home and sang a hymn. I remember singing 'Now the day is over, Night is drawing nigh'.

In Standard 4 we concentrated on arithmetic and English, writing, composition, spelling and learning history. The teacher was Miss Offord who was quite young, but unfortunately she became ill and we then had Miss Edmundson who was also young, tall and smart. We had country dancing with Miss Edmundson and games in the school yard.

Standard 5 was the scholarship class which was taken by Mr. Gardiner who had ginger hair, a red complexion and expected us to work hard. He was known as Daddy Gardiner. I can still hear him saying, "You WILL know the rivers in Europe" as he pointed them out to us on the map. In turn we had to say them. He used to say "I have a reputation for getting boys and girls to the Grammar School, and I am here to make you get a scholarship." There was a scholarship board in the school hall. Boys and Girls who passed the scholarship had their names printed in gold on that board.

Those who didn't get to the grammar school continued into Standard 6 where they were taught by Mr. Dodds and Mr. Neasham. Later they had the chance to go to Whitburn Secondary School.

I left the Big School in 1938 and went to Seaham which was the Grammar School for girls. The boys went to Ryhope Grammar School.

I loved my time at Cleadon School and still have friends in Cleadon who were there with me. We had a wonderful childhood in Cleadon, able to play down the Meadow Hedge which is where Coulthard Park is now, also the Haunty which was the derelict hall, now the site for Cleadon Old Hall Flats. We had the joy of the countryside and the beaches, playing with conkers and having snowball fights, without the restrictions of Health and Safety. I consider all scholars who attended Cleadon Schools in those days had a wonderful foundation for their future lives. We were very fortunate.

E. David's Recollections

David (son of Maurice Oliver, head teacher of the Council School until 1955) remembers as a 5 year old, in the reception class in the 'Old Schoolroom, being given a punishment. He was made to stand behind the piano. Sometime later he realised that school was over and everybody had gone home. He was alone in the classroom. So he hurried out through the yard, across the road, past the Chapel and down Whitburn Road to his Home 'Belmont'. The next day, when he told Mrs. Davison that he'd crept out of school and run home, she was greatly relieved and said that he'd done the right thing and been a sensible boy.

Another time, he asked to go to the toilet [in the yard] but was told to wait until the previous little boy returned. He was desperate so asked if he could use the girls' toilets but the answer was NO. The inevitable consequence was an accident, so he was sent home with wet and dirty trousers. He remembers his Mum giving him a lovely bath in front of the fire watched by his grandparents who were on holiday here.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was sent as an evacuee to the Lake District, spending a couple of years there. With his elder brother, Denis, David went to stay with their father's college friend Mr Alf Humble, who was headmaster of the school at Yanwath. By courtesy of South Shields Museum and Art Gallery we have a copy and transcript of one of David's first letters home:

David remembers returning to the Big School in Cleadon to Miss Offord's class. She was cross with him one day and, picking up the cane said, "Hold your hand out!" Wham, down came the cane sharply hitting the desk just above David's hand. What a lucky escape!

He also remembers the visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth passing through Cleadon on their way to South Shields. David was amongst the infants on the East side, [school side] who saw the Queen. The Big School children were on the opposite side of the road and were able to wave to the King.

7.7.40
 school house
 Sawath pennith

Dear mammy and dady and Toan
 have you had any air
 raid warnings since those
 other, terrible ones. I went
 a walk with uncle and
 I went up green lane
 and first of all I saw
 two rabbit holes and then
 a bit I saw a rat and a
 hole. Before I went
 to sunday school I
 posted a letter for
 uncle and brought the
 evacuees down at the
 post office. yesterday
 I went to the cinema
 to see gullivers travels
 yesterday and it was
 very good indeed so
 good that I nearly
 turned in the picture

Plate 31: Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7th July 1940. Page 1. [Tyne and Wear Museums]

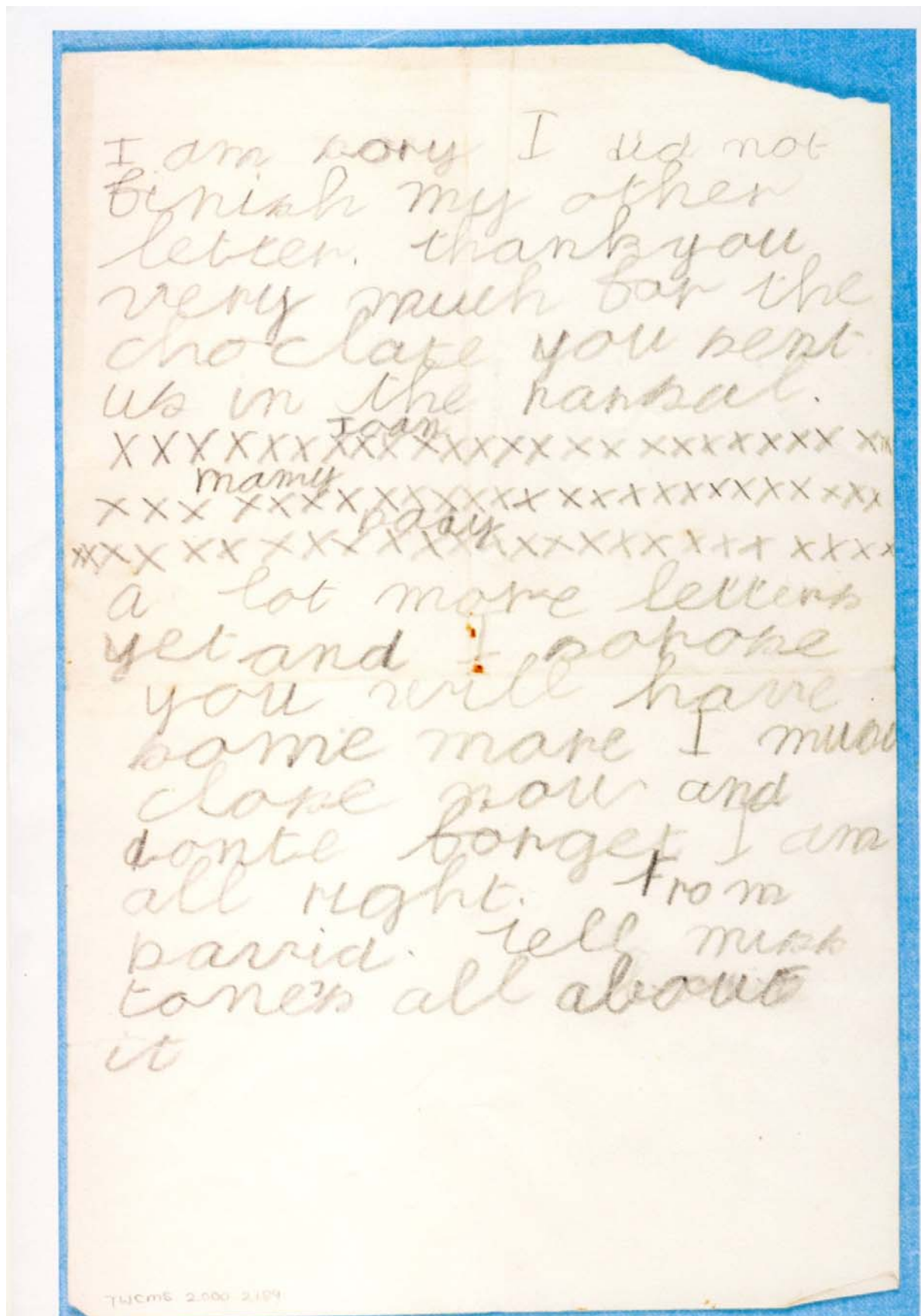


Plate 32: Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7th July 1940. Page 2. [Tyne and Wear Museums]

South Tyneside at War

Evacuee's Letter

Like so many children, David Oliver was evacuated during the Second World War. He wrote this letter home to his parents in July 1940, when he was seven years old.

7.7.40

School House

Yawath

Penrith

Dear Mamy and dady and Joan

Have you had any air raid warnings since those other terrible ones. I went a walk with uncle and I went up green lane and first of all I saw two rabbit holes and after a bit I saw a rat and its hole. Before I went to Sunday school I posted a letter for uncle and brought the evacuees down at the post office. Yesterday I went to the pictures to see gulliver's travels yesterday and it was very good indeed so good that I nearly tumbled in the picture.

I am sorry I did not finish my other letter. Thank you very much for the chocolate you sent us in the post.

Joan

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Mamy

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dady

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A lot more letters yet and I suppose you will have some more I must close now and don't forget I am all right. From David. Tell miss tones all about it

TWM : 2000.2189

Plate 33: Letter home from David Oliver, evacuee, 7th July 1940. Transcript. [Tyne and Wear Museums]

Part 10 More information from Cleadon Village History Society

A. Schooldays are the best days

Page 43

School days are the best days.....

- 16.01.21 Disobedience to teacher - 1 stroke with cane across buttocks.
25.03.22 Placing carbide in inkwells (2nd. offence) - 2 strokes across buttocks.
19.05.23 Untruthfulness - 2 strokes cane on hand.
29.03.24 Stealing turnips - 2 strokes on hand.
23.09.25 Gross impertinence and threats to teacher - 2 strokes on hand.
04.04.27 Stopping up drains with coke - 2 strokes on each hand.
17.07.29 Sulking - 1 stroke on each hand.
14.09.31 Impudent manner - 2 strokes across buttocks.
29.11.33 Sulkiness - 3 strokes on each hand.
10.05.34 Squirting ink on girls' dress - 2 strokes on each hand.
06.06.35 Rudeness in urinal - 1 stroke on each hand.
29.06.36 Climbing over garden railings - 3 strokes on each hand,
15.12.36 Throwing papers around classroom by means of elastic catapults - 2 strokes on each hand.



B. Extracts from Log Book of Cleadon Council Junior Mixed School 1947

44

Cleadon County Junior Mixed
Extracts from the Log Bookd

Jan. 27 1947 Attendance poorest (81%) for over a year owing to prevalence of sickness in the shape of chills , due to the bad weather.

Jan 29 1947 Attendance of scholars down to 76.8%

Jan 30 1947 Stormy weather still continues.

Feb 7 1947 The weather has been very bad all this week and the attendance notwithstanding this has reached 86.7% for the week.

11 Feb 1947 Scholarship exam. due to be held today postponed to Friday 14th. owing to very stormy weather.

45

14 Feb. 1947 Conditions are still bad and the exam. has again been postponed until the weather is suitable.

26 Feb. 1947 A terrible storm with the formation of deep drifts of snow caused the attendance to fall to 25% this morning. The van could not travel with the dinner from the kitchen so children had to go home for dinner and an attendance of only 10% in the afternoon resulted.

13 Mar. 1947 The weather which has been continuously bad now for six weeks reached a climax today. Roads were impassable and no dinners arrived even although 44% of children and a full staff was present. Some who lived near were able to go home for dinner but the attendance dropped to 36% in the afternoon. The children who could not go home were provided with bread and Oxo at dinner time. No milk was delivered today.

46

14 Mar. 1947 Similar conditions to those of yesterday prevailed today there were no buses running.

27 Mar. 1947 Qual. examination for County Scholarships were held today. Postponed from Feb. 11th. the weather has been so bad that it has not been found possible to hold it till today.

5 Jan. 1948 Workmen arrived during holidays to dismantle air raid shelters which had been built in school garden. No gardening could be done until the mess has been cleared and even then it is too much to expect a mere handful of boys (7 in all) to do much in it. The girls in the Domestic Room only total 3 on Mondays so I have, for the time being, asked Miss Lumsdon to introduce them to the mystery and delight of cooking which they are very keen to do.

C. Cleadon Parochial school ... documentary evidence

CLEADON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



Executive Summary

1. Cleadon Parochial School was built in 1830 on a piece of roadside land adjacent to the South Shields branch of the Turnpike Road from Wearmouth Bridge to the Tyne Bridge for the consideration of £2.00 under certain Highways Acts. The school was sometimes used for Sunday services before All Saints was built in 1869. The Ormston family owned the land from the pond to present day fields on Cleadon Lane [Plots 331/232 & 332/231 on Tithe/OS maps] circa 1840/1855 respectively. Known as Sunderland Close (part) and an Orchard.
2. A new two roomed school was built adjacent to the old building in 1901
The original school was used as a Parish Hall or Village Institute being extended by the addition of a wooden ex army hut to the rear after WW1, until its demolition in 1938.
3. The 'Senior' school was built on Cleadon Lane in 1907.
4. In 1938 the 1830 Parochial School and 'Institute' was demolished and a new Church Hall built. This is still umbilically linked to the 1901 schoolroom.
5. 1963 saw the opening of a new Junior School in Boldon Lane. The infants school moved into the 1907 building. The old schoolrooms were used as a dining facility and Library.
6. In September, 2007 the Infants department will join the Junior department at the new Primary school on Boldon Lane.
7. At this time the School Dining Room, built in 1901 will become redundant and could be sold. Ownership of the school is said to be unclear.
8. Two letters from the Diocese of Durham give conflicting opinions. The Board of Finance letter (1992) supports ownership by the parish whilst the Board of Education letter (1994) claims it belongs to the diocese. The House of Lords recently ruled that under the 1841 School Sites Act, if the usage of land changed, possession reverts to the descendants of the original owner. The issue needs clarification.
9. Letter from Diocese of Durham, Board of Education, dated 12th April, 2007 clarifies para. 8 above and states that the School Dining Room does in fact belong to All Saints'; there is a conveyance dated 1940 which confirms this.

BB July, 2006, Rev 3, Sep., 2007

2

Cleadon Parochial School

Proof of Evidence

References:

- A. Record of Parochial Charities (1904) - Vol. 1
Durham University Library Research Room.
- B. Cleadon Co. Durham - notes on its antiquities
D. (Dominic) Wawn, Cleadon Tower, 1937
- C. Durham County Council, Managers Minute Book for Cleadon Church of England School. Extracts 1904 - 1951*.
- D. Durham Diocesan Board of Finance, Auckland Castle
12th February, 1992. (letter from Secretary, W Hurworth)
- E. Durham Diocesan Board of Education, Carter House, Durham.
25th November, 1994 (letter from Rev. Canon A H Nugent)
- F. Development brief - Cleadon Village Church of England
Voluntary-Controlled Infants School, Cleadon Lane, Cleadon
Village. South Tyneside Council. 31st October, 2003.
- G. The Times, October 29th 2005, News page 11. ' Church to pay
the price for selling land'.
- H. Tithe map c 1840 and OS map 1855
- I. Durham Diocesan Board of Education, Carter House, Durham
12th April, 2007 (letter from Sheila Bamber, Director of Educ.)

* Became controlled school from 1st November, 1951

Explanatory Notes

1. REF. A States "The Cleadon Parochial School is comprised a deed dated 1st June, 1830. By this deed Thomas Rudd and others under certain Highways Acts for purpose of a road from Wearmouth Bridge to Tyne Bridge with a branch to South Shields in consideration of the sum of 2l (£2) granted a piece of roadside ground to the township (or hamlet) of Cleadon, delineated in a plan endorsed on the deed, to the Rev. Thomas Baker, rector of Whitburn, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns by virtue of the Turnpike Act of 4 Geo., IV. c95 (George IV 1795). No trusts were declared by this deed, and it does not appear that trusts have ever been declared concerning the property, or that there are any legal trustees thereof. Further it is stated that the Rev. Thos. Baker whilst rector of Whitburn acted as sole manager of the school, and subsequent incumbents have acted as the sole manager as the present incumbent does."

The Rev G.F. Price, rector of Whitburn, reported to the Charity Commission in October, 1888 that there was a sum of money in the Shields Savings bank arising from a deposit made in 1839 by the Rev Thomas , rector of Whitburn in trust for the Cleadon Parochial School. It was subsequently transferred into the name of Rev. G.F. Price, Henry Cooper Abbs, William Harry Allison and John Broderick Dale who subsequently declined to join in an application to

Cleadon Parochial School

3

the Charity Commission for transfer (of the fund). The trustees proposed to retain the fund for expenditure if needed in improvements to the school buildings.

The school is also endowed under the will of Richard Shortridge (of Cleadon Meadows).

In short the land and buildings at that time clearly belonged to the Parish of Whitburn.

2. REF. B. Dominic Wawn in his book produced to raise funds for the Church Hall in 1937 states that the school was also used for services prior to the building of the church in 1865

3. REF. C. Minutes dated Saturday March 3rd 1906 The rector of Whitburn (Rev William Moore Ede) reported that the legal expenses connected with vesting the site (of the school and Curates house) with the Church (sic) [Charity] Commissioners amounted to £23-6s-3d. This was paid by Whitburn.

REF. C. Minutes dated Monday March 11h 1912 Resolution "The Vicar of Cleadon (Rev. R.P. Moorsom) is elected Chair of Managers vice rector of Whitburn Canon Hopkinson."

4. REF. D & E Two letters with different conclusions. The Board of Finance letter (to Rev. Norman Shaw (dated 12th February, 1992) maintains that 'If the building was ever sold it would be necessary for the Charity Commissioners to issue an order to sell and prepare a scheme for the interests of the proceeds of the sale to be used for ecclesiastical purposes within the parish'

Conversely the Board of Education letter dated the 24th November, 1994 (to Mrs J. Mulley, Headteacher) takes the opposite view and claims that the building does not belong to the L.E.A. (who currently maintain and insure it) nor to the PCC, or the Parish of Cleadon. "Should the school ever close it is most likely that the building would have to be sold and the proceeds subjected to a Section 2 Order under the 1973 Education Act. That would mean that part of the proceeds would go to the building of a new school.....and part to the Diocesan Board of Education for school use only."

5. REF. F Deals only with the Planning aspect of the use of land and buildings on the school site in Cleadon Lane.

6. REF. G Times article concerns the disposal of land by the Church of England that does not belong to it but was given to a parish by a benefactor under the 1841 School Sites Act. All effort has to be made to locate descendants and redistribute the money to beneficiaries.

7. REF. H Shows plots 331/232 & plots 332/231 and in accompanying table ownership by Isobella Ormston et.al. of Jesmond.

8. REF. I Letter from The Diocese of Durham, Board of Education, dated 12th April, 2007, to Rev, Rosemary Nixon makes clear that the Cleadon Village Infant School Dining Room belongs to the PCC of All Saints' Church but vested in the DBF on behalf of the PCC.

BB July, 2006, Rev.3 Sep, 2007



Plate 34: Three schoolgirls standing by Cleadon pond (before 1936). Looking towards the Ship Inn, once a coaching inn on the turnpike road to South Shields. [The Britannia, at the next sharp bend in the road, was also a coaching inn but for a different company.] The inn yard has a broken-down wagon and the board on the wall shows the name of the proprietor: Gilchrist. To the right is the wall of French's farm, where John Wesley once preached

D. Cleadon Lake

CLEADON VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

CLEADON LAKE

The Boldon Book of 1183 makes first mention of Cleadon. With its natural spring and lake in a sheltered position between the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, very probably a settlement existed here in Saxon times.

Title of land was held as a copy holder which was dependent upon the copy of the roll of the manor, in this case the manor of Chester or the Bishopric of the County Palatine of Durham (use of the term Palatine ended 1836) but gradually copyholders became freeholders under the Surrender Documentation of the Halmote Courts of the Bishop of Durham.

The earliest written reference to the owner or copyholder of Plot 246a, which contains the village pond, in the public domain is shown on the tithe map of 1839. On the first OS map of 1855 the same plot is numbered 261. The 1842 Tithe Apportionment for Cleadon and Whitburn lists the land not as Glebe land but rather "Houses roads etc. within the township of Cleadon" and inhabited by "Sundry Occupiers".

From 1839 the pond was maintained by Whitburn Parish Council, from 1872 South Shields Urban District Council then subsequently Boldon Urban District Council and today South Tyneside Council. One illustration will suffice to make the point: the rails around the pond were in need of attention." Councillor Allison reported these had been inspected and he had given instructions for the work to be done..." South Shields RDC minutes, 9th December, 1897.

In 1912 The Clusters, a group of closely packed houses and a cottage in front of the village well, to the east of the pond, were condemned by the Medical Officer of Health and demolished: the land was acquired by the Power Supply Company and the first Electricity Substation built. Later a public toilet was constructed although this was demolished in the 1960's. In 1936 the A19 Turnpike Road was widened and the lake reduced to a pond. The cattle ramp from the A19 (now the A1018) was relocated in Front Street where it remains to this day.

The Church Commissioners have claimed that the land containing the pond belongs to them, however no supporting evidence of title has been provided and it is unlikely that it is Glebe land.. They could however own the mineral rights below ground level but this point is purely academic as coal working in the area has long since ceased.

There was once a holding pond on the corner of Sunnyside Lane/North Road connected to the lake by a stream but this was filled in some time ago and the stream culverted.

References: 1. OS Map of 1855 showing Cleadon Village as part of Whitburn Parish
2. Cleadon Village Tythe Map of 1839
3. Tithe apportionment circa 1842

Source 1. Tyne and Wear Archives, Blandford House, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Locations: 2. University of Durham Library, Palace Green, City of Durham

Brian Bage 19th May, 2012

Rev 2, 27th January, 2014

Part 11 Cleadon Village Church of England Primary School

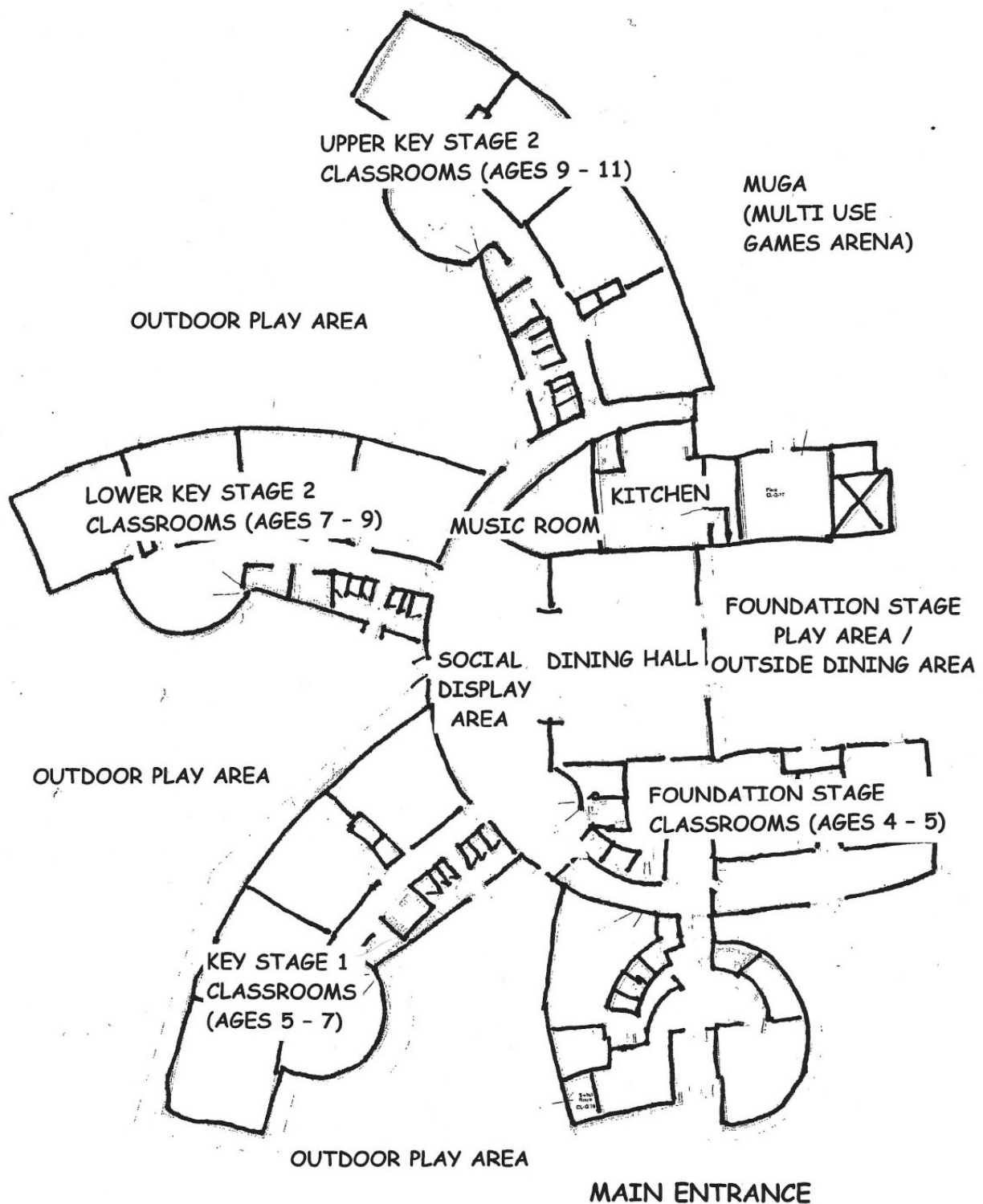


Plate 35: Church of England Primary School floor-plan.



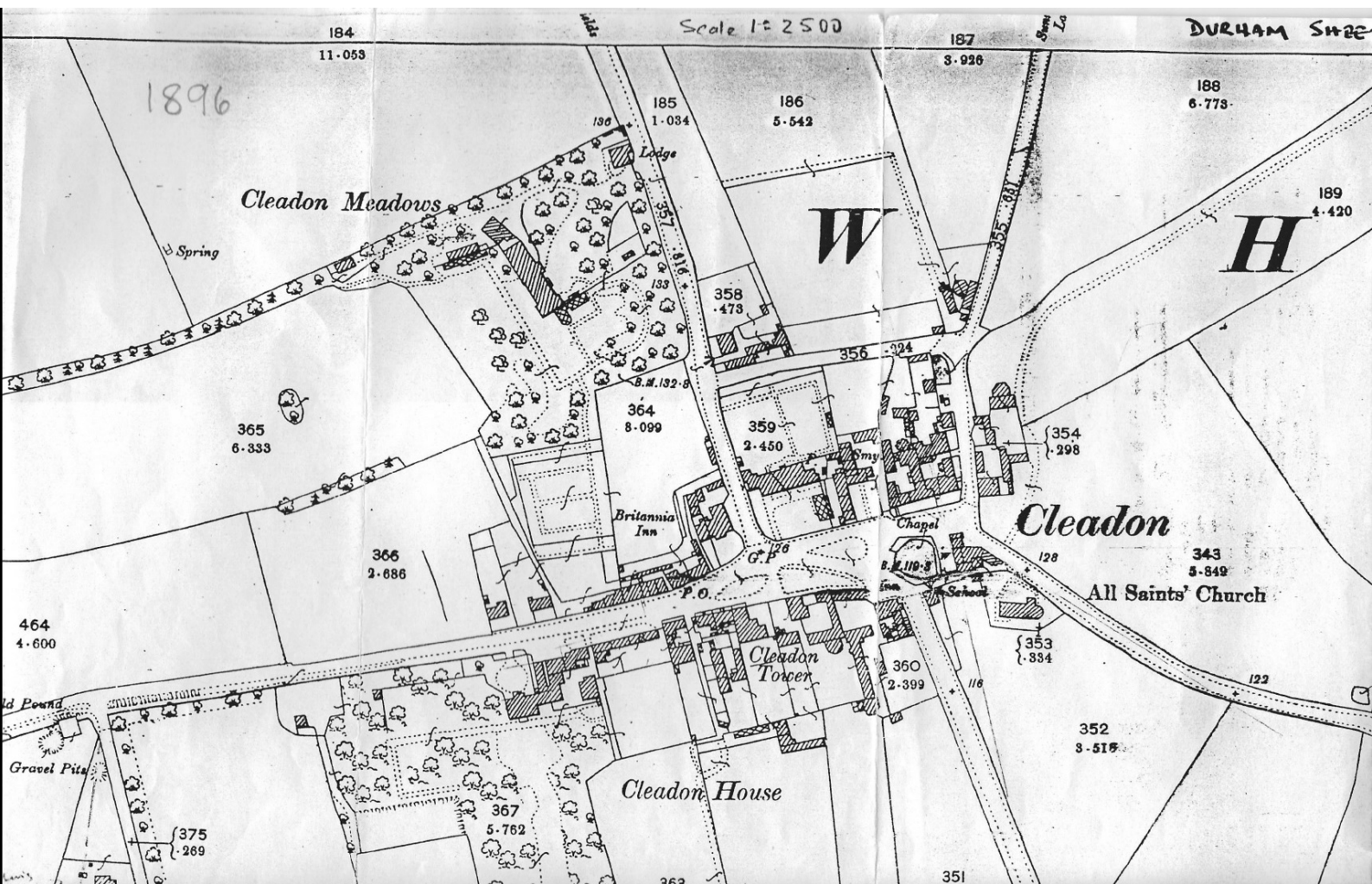
Plate 36: Church of England Primary School aerial view.

Appendix Maps of Cleadon 1839 – 1988




A. Map 1: 1839 Tithe Map

The Pond is clearly visible with a cluster of houses on its eastern side and, to the south, a black square marks the Parochial school. The turnpike road runs from the south, reaches the Pond and turns left at the Ship Inn into an open space before resuming its northward direction towards South Shields.



B. 1896

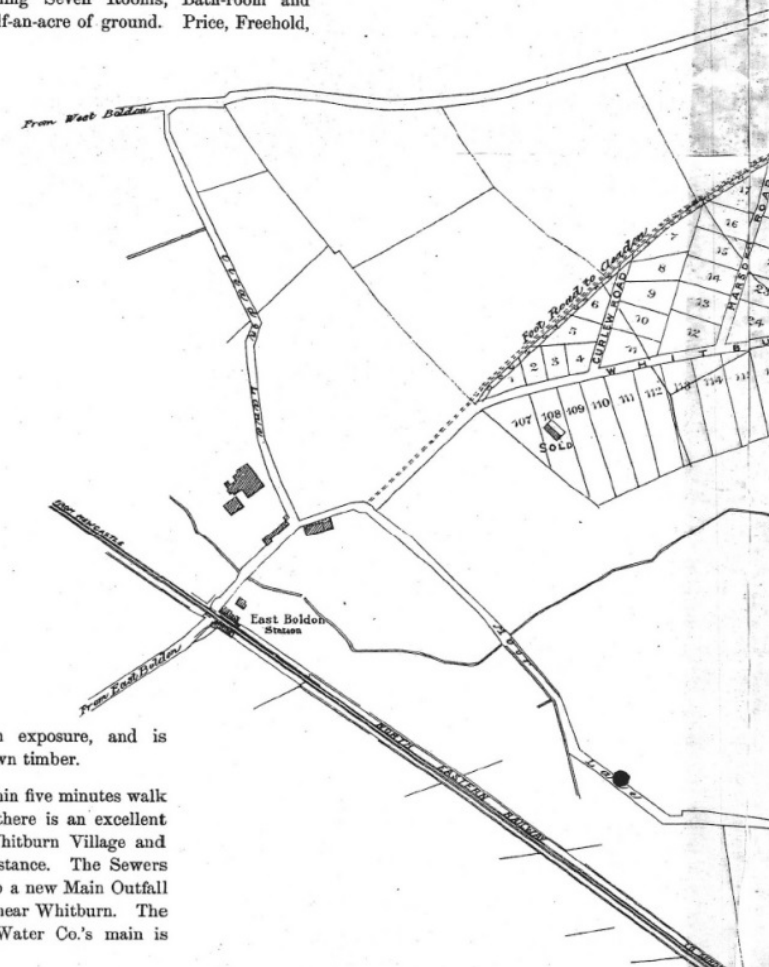
The Parochial School and the Cluster of houses with a well, behind the Pond are plain to see. Across the road from the Pond is the Wesleyan Chapel [the methodist Church that we know today would be built in 1899] and round the corner towards Whitburn is All Saints Church. As yet there is no vicarage.



Detached House containing Seven Rooms, Bath-room and conveniences, together with half-an-acre of ground. Price, Freehold, from £500.

FREE
East Lo.

Solicitors.—MAUGHAN & HALL
Surveyors.—WATSON & SCOTT,
Secretary.—JOSEPH W. WAKIN



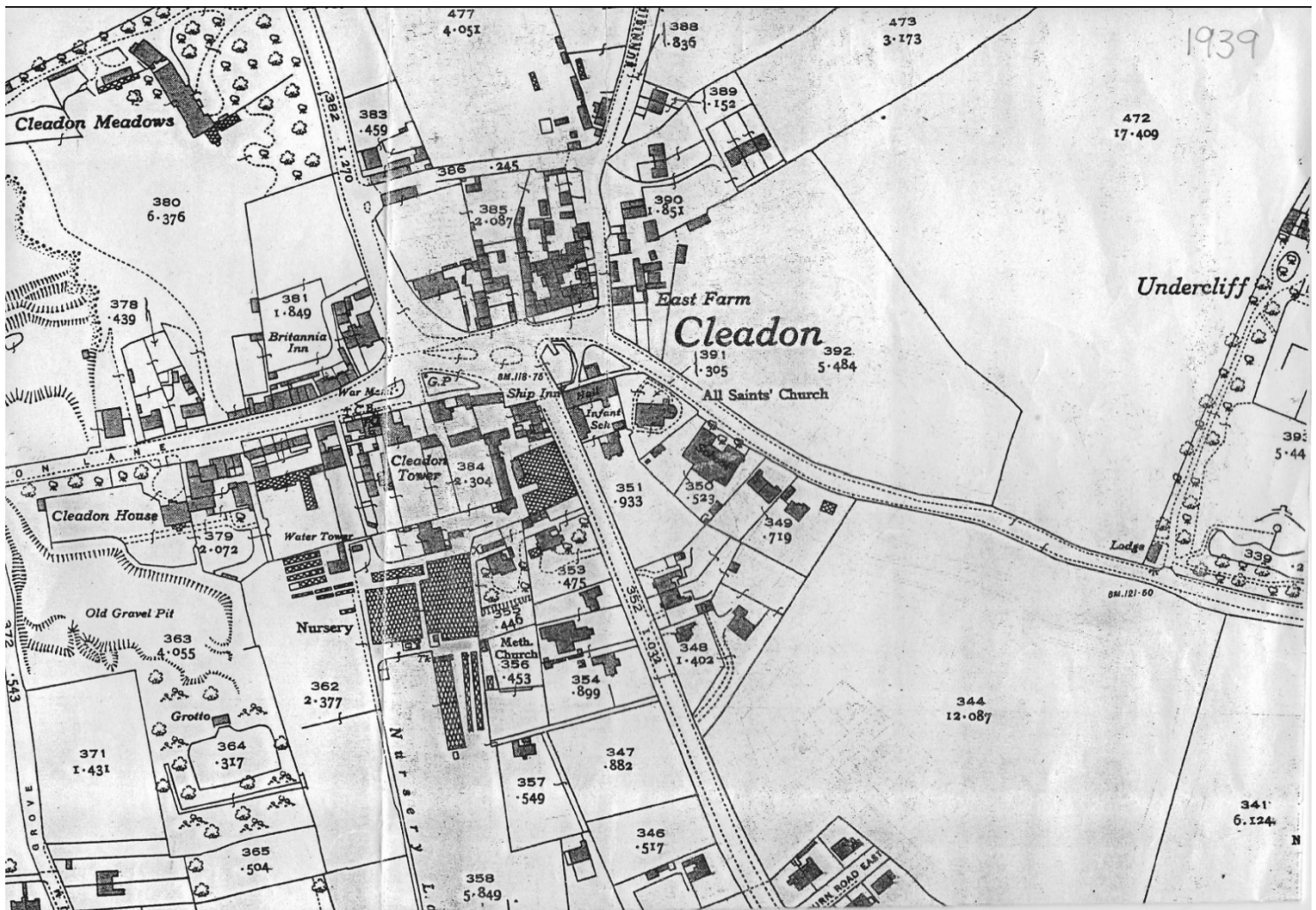
The Estate has a Southern exposure, and is sheltered and adorned by well grown timber.

At its nearest point, it is within five minutes walk of East Boldon Station, whence there is an excellent service of trains to all parts. Whitburn Village and Coast are within easy walking distance. The Sewers have recently been connected up to a new Main Outfall Sewer, laid direct into the sea, near Whitburn. The Sunderland and South Shields Water Co.'s main is laid on.



C. 1899 Land Sale

This is a map of the Village showing freehold land for sale and proposals for the building of lots of houses down Whitburn Rd. West Park Rd. Underhill Rd.etc. This building must have been taking place around the time that the Old Schoolroom was built.

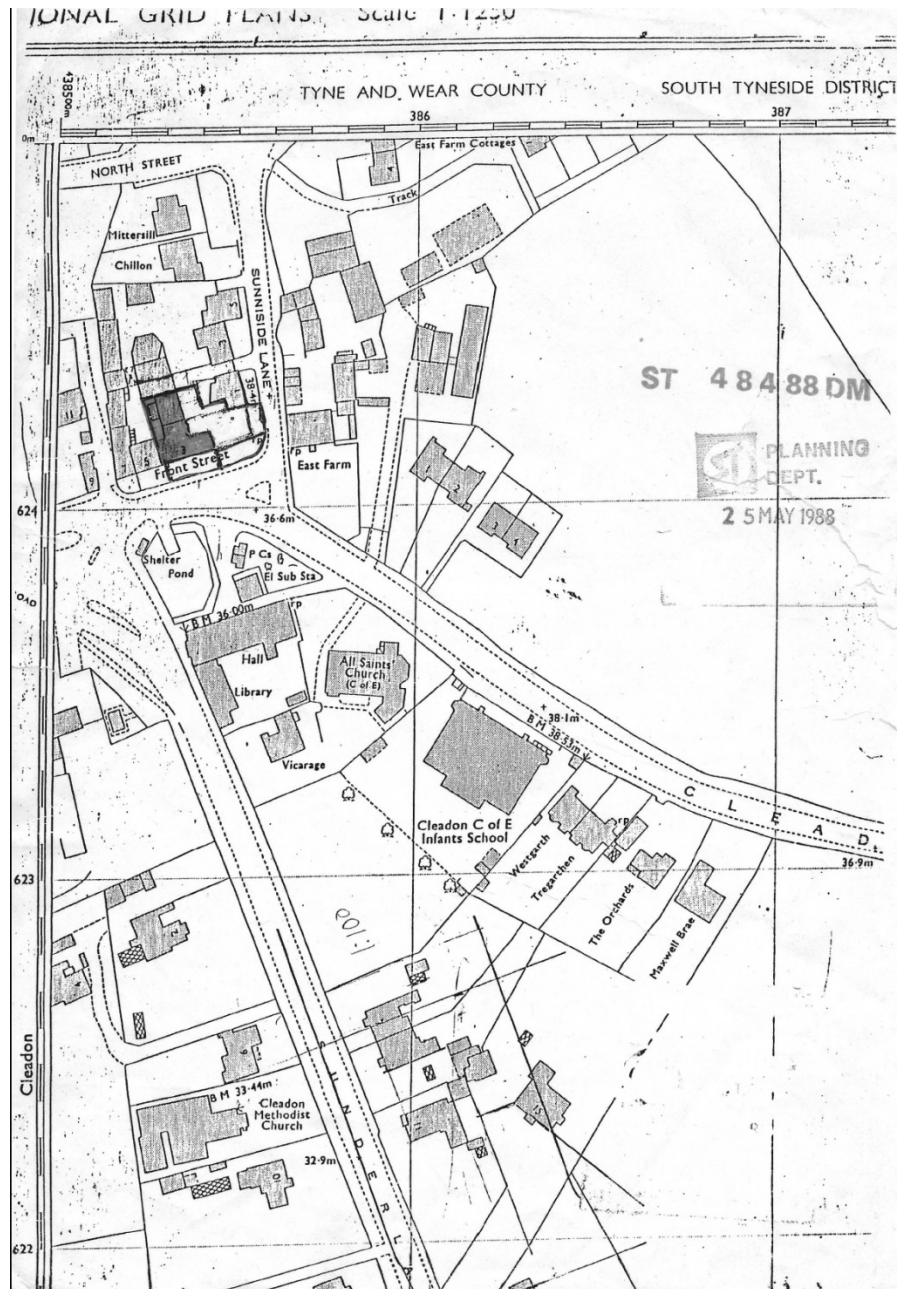


D. 1939

Here we see the Church Hall on the site of the Parochial School. Beside it is the Infants School and next-door, the vicarage. Cleadon Council School has been built on Cleadon Lane. All Saints Church has been extended and a Methodist Church built on the road leading into Cleadon from Sunderland.

E. 1988

The old Infants School has been transformed into a library. The original Council School is now Cleadon C of E Infants. All Saints church has been extended as has Cleadon Methodist Church. The Ship Inn has been demolished and the road widened into a more gentle curve.





*An aerial photograph of Cleadon Village as it is today.
The Old Schoolroom south of the pond and red roofed Church Hall, and the roofs of the old
Council School are distinct in the south-east quadrant.*