



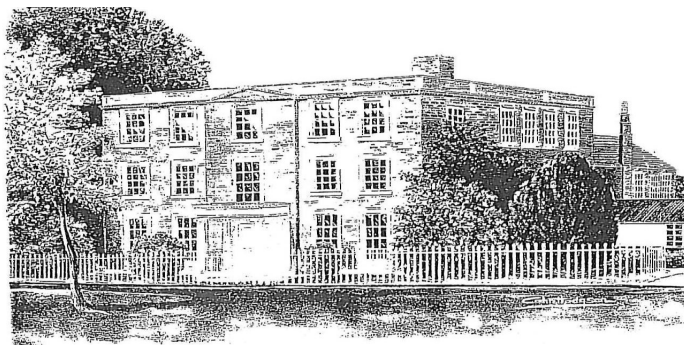
OLD AYSCOUGHFIANS

Issue 5

Special points of interest:

- Welcome
- New Appointments
- The Queens Jubilee Celebration
- News of Old Ayscoughfians

Welcome



Welcome to this fifth edition of the Old Ayscoughfians newsletter.

Our aim is to connect with as many of our ex pupils, staff and families as possible to help maintain contact and to share each others news. We would love to hear from you. We have an electronic registration form for Old Ayscoughfians on our school website at www.ahs.me.uk.

You may also wish to follow our Facebook and Instagram page, Ayscoughfee Hall School Life, to find out about all the exciting things our children get up to throughout the school year. If you haven't visited it already please do and take the opportunity to like and share our page so we can reach as many people as possible.



Welcome message from the Headteacher

It seems almost impossible to believe that nearly a year has gone by since I took on the post of Headteacher at the School from Mrs Ogden.

It has been a tremendously exciting year, beginning with the full ISI Inspection. We were delighted and proud to receive 'Excellent' in all areas (the equivalent of 'Outstanding' in state schools).

We have been able to welcome parents and volunteer helpers back in to school after two years without them. We were also able to start our programme of class visits again,

including a wonderful and highly successful residential trip for Years 5 and 6 to York.

Although we were unable to celebrate the 100th birthday of the School, we made up for it with a great day of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. See inside for some pictures of the day.

We hope you enjoy reading this Old Ayscoughfians newsletter. If you would like to send us your news for inclusion in our next edition, it would be lovely to hear from you and it would be wonderful to have you visit too!

Mrs Theresa Wright Appointed As New Headteacher

I am delighted and honoured to take over the role of Headteacher at Ayscoughfee Hall school, following the retirement of Mrs Ogden last July. Clare certainly left some very big boots to fill and it has been my absolute pleasure to work alongside her as part of the senior management team since joining the school in September 2017.

I have worked in education for 22 years and have held a range of management positions in that time. I passionately believe that all children deserve the very best education, delivered through a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum. The staff at Ayscoughfee all share this vision and are the most wonderful team to work alongside. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to come to school everyday surrounded by dedicated staff, wonderful children and supportive parents.

Following a difficult couple of years during the pandemic, we are now looking forward to a more 'normal' future at the school, devoting ourselves as ever to the business of encouraging a love of learning in the children as well as nurturing them to be caring, responsible and kind. I am very much looking forward to the years to come and helping to lead the school towards an exciting future.

*"I passionately
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First Year of Retirement - Mrs Ogden

Retirement has only been around since the 18th Century, prior to this humans had an average life expectancy between 26 and 40 years, so most just worked all their lives. How lucky therefore am I to be able to enjoy this special time of life with family and friends, especially as I still only feel relatively young!!!

I have enjoyed a wonderful first year. I need to say right from the start that I have missed life at Ayscoughfee; the children, staff, parents and governors all become part of your daily life and it feels very strange at first to be without everyone. However, like family, you keep in touch and I know the school is an excellent place with Mrs Wright and all the staff and children working really hard as always. I have loved being able to pop in with cakes from time to time to see the children and staff and to follow all the fun and smiley faces on Facebook and Instagram.



So, what have I been up to? After the amazing send off the school gave me, I had a relaxed normal summer break in Fotheringhay, enjoying the lovely parting gifts I had been given. I am often found sitting in my special arbour which overlooks the church reading a book or enjoying a glass of wine! I have visited many National Trust properties with my husband Lawrence and am planning on renewing my membership as I have enjoyed this gift so much. As many know, I love being by the sea and Norfolk has a

special place in my heart, so a long weekend with Lawrence at the White Horse in Brancaster Staithe was a perfect way to use the vouchers I was given; amazing food, coast walks and a friendly ambience, I can thoroughly recommend it to all. Hopefully some of you may have had a few moments to sit on the bench by the green gate which was a gift back to all of you. Thank you for making my lead up to retirement so memorable and happy.

The Summer went very quickly and instead of being back at school, my new life had started. I was worried that I would not have enough to do. How wrong I was! I set myself different challenges for each month and aimed to learn new skills, raise money for others and spend more time with friends and family. October found me walking over 100 miles with family and friends to raise £500 for Breast Cancer. I took up piano in November having watched so many pupils over the years play so well and yes, it is much harder than it looks!! I am still going but am not sure Mrs Potter would be putting me in a music assembly any time soon! December and February found me



remembering how to crochet and do cross stitch embroidery, mainly presents for grandchildren! The list goes on. I might even have to take up bell ringing following a visit from some staff to the village and Mrs Chester's interest in the church!

"Since being at the school I have climbed just short of a million steps!"



One of the main reasons for retiring was to be with family. My granddaughter Sophie has just turned one and is an absolute joy. I go down fortnightly to visit, look after her and take her to nursery. My other two grandchildren, Poppy and Holly are growing up fast and are also great fun. I have managed to spend a lot more time with my grown-up children, including time in the Malvern's walking recently or visiting London, Manchester and Newbury. My sisters have also both just retired, so happy days in Dorset and sailing out of Woodbridge have become much more frequent. Visiting and helping my parents has become a priority and I know how very blessed I am to be able to spend so much time with them.





Lawrence has also retired and so the garden which has long needed our attention is now in a slightly better place. The new-found freedom of no work allowed me to go to Chelsea Flower show this year, something I have always wanted to do but timing never allowed. Wimbledon will hopefully be next! We have started travelling more and are off to Portugal next week with plans to visit Greece, New Zealand, the South of France and possibly Canada next year. We will also be travelling around the UK which has become more fun since 'Elsie' came on the scene, my new black convertible Mini. She named herself as the registration starts LC. Many staff at school have minis and I have to say she makes me smile every time I go for a drive and I understand why you all love minis so much.

I can't quite believe I have almost been retired for a year as it really has flown past. I am enrolled on a patchwork course starting in October, Lawrence has suggested he might let me play the odd game of golf and I have just discovered that membership at Northamptonshire Libraries gives me free access online to all newspapers and magazines, so that is next year taken care of!

I recently read that the secret to good health is joy. I consider myself lucky enough to have this in abundance, due mainly to my family and friends. I miss everyone at Ayscoughfee and wish you all lots of joy and a fantastic summer holiday.

With best wishes and happy memories,

Clare Ogden



A Fond Farewell from Mrs Wayman

Sadly, this term we will be saying a fond farewell to two wonderful teachers. Mrs Wayman has taught at the school for an impressive 32 years; indeed, many of you reading this will have been taught by her and we can hardly imagine school life without her. We will be sad to see her leave but wish her every fun and happiness in her retirement.

Mrs Hare, joined the school as a part time music teacher in 2019. Whilst she has only been at the school for 3 years, 2 of which were during the pandemic, she has successfully re-established the school band, even encouraging the staff to showcase their talents in this years Summer Music concert! Her love and enthusiasm for music has made a lasting impression on the pupils and staff and we wish her all the very best in her retirement.



As I take time to look back, it is hard to believe that I have been involved with the school since 1987 as a parent, when my son, Luke, became a pupil. (We were shown round Church Street by Julia White, who was head girl at the time)

Having left a nursing career to have a family, I studied for a degree with the Open University. My 32 years at the school have been an amazing journey. My first post as TA, working with Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1 led to a new-found passion for teaching and I then went on to complete teacher training. I taught Year 3 for a short time and then moved to Year 1, before moving back to the juniors and my current post in Year 5. I am eternally grateful to Mr Sivill and Mr Chittick for giving me the opportunity to become part of the Ayscoughfee family.

I really appreciate all the support and encouragement that has been given to me during my time at Ayscoughfee in particular when I was diagnosed with cancer and under went surgery and chemotherapy. Knowing that I had friends and colleagues to support me and a job to return to was definitely the motivation I needed, to make a full recovery. However, I never expected this to happen twice.

My time here has been a very happy, fulfilling one, I have enjoyed every minute, especially working with the children and staff on summer productions, staff pantos, many activity holidays at Hilltop where I spent most of the time dangling from a harness high above the ground, and all the many children I have taught. I embraced many new challenges along the way, for example laptops and Interactive whiteboards and ultimately getting to grips with home learning on zoom during lockdowns.

Like the zipwire, 32 years have whizzed by, and although leaving is tinged with sadness, a new adventure now awaits – retirement – a time to relax and slow down a little and enjoy spending more time with my husband, my family and

will be more time spent walking in the Lake District.

It has been a remarkable experience to be part of Ayscoughfee School's journey. My memories of my time here are happy, joyful ones, a time spent with children, staff and parents. A truly special time in my life, it has been a privilege to be part of such a fabulous school for so many years and to work with so many amazing people too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Theresa for her excellent leadership in her first year as Headteacher along with the senior management team. I would like to pass on my best wishes to all the staff and newly appointed staff and wish all associated with the school continued success in all they do. The school is in very safe hands and will undoubtedly go on to even greater achievements in the future.



Mrs Wayman with a Kindergarten Class taken in 1991 and at Sports Day in 1992



Thank You For The Music, Mrs Hare!



It is with some excitement but also with an immense sadness that I have made the decision to retire from the position of part time music teacher at Ayscoughfee Hall School. Although I have only been at the school for three years, I hope that I have made a positive difference to the children I have taught and have given lots of them inspiration to pursue their music interests. Similarly, I thank the children for the inspiration they have given me in my teaching.

I was given such a warm welcome to the school by the staff and pupils, and I felt part of this special family very quickly. The support and encouragement I have been given is second to none, and I have enjoyed every minute of my time at the school. Teaching is such a fulfilling profession and I feel privileged to have spent the last few years of my school career at Ayscoughfee.



Welcome Mrs White



I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to become a senior teacher at Ayscoughfee Hall School and feel incredibly privileged to have become a part of the 'Ayscoughfee family'. All the staff and pupils have been so welcoming and I feel very lucky to be working alongside such a supportive and caring team. Even though I am new to the school, I have been teaching for over twenty-three years and love the variety, challenge and reward that each day brings. To be in a profession where you get to read fabulous stories, watch children create masterpieces, solve

mathematical problems and learn something new every day, is a daily dream come true! I am really looking forward to leading English and sharing my love of this subject with both staff and pupils.

Although new to Ayscoughfee as a teacher, this wonderful school has been part of my life for many years. I was lucky enough to start my education here as a pupil when it was in the old Ayscoughfee Hall and then when it moved to the old Parish School building. Even aged three, I couldn't wait to get through its doors and that is still the same many years later! I have so many fond memories of my time as a pupil and was lucky to have been taught by so many inspiring teachers. I certainly feel that I am 'walking in the footsteps of giants'. Sue Macdonald taught me to love music and singing and hopefully I can bring all the enthusiasm she instilled in me into our choir sessions!

The year I have been here has flown by and I cannot wait for all the new and exciting opportunities which are yet to come. I look forward to working with Theresa, Jackie and the rest of the staff and bringing my love of learning, gifted from my time here as a pupil, back into this outstanding school.



A picture taken from 1988 when the AHS Junior Choir beat all the competition at the Peterborough Music Festival. Success followed success in the musical sphere after Mrs MacDonald joined the staff. At the front are Head Boy Sam Trebbick and Head Girl Julia West (Mrs White)



The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The children, staff and parents had a wonderful time celebrating The Queens Platinum Jubilee. The celebrations started with a whole school picnic outside the front of the school with platters of delicious food fit for the Queen. This was followed by the arrival of the parents and family members who were treated to a fantastic show of singing and dancing through the decades performed by the children. Everyone had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the festivities of the afternoon.





News of Old Ayscoughfians

Mark Le Sage

I had the pleasure of taking my Mum to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace as part of my BEM celebrations that were delayed due to the Covid pandemic.



Seth Woodrow

One of last years, School Captains has had a fantastic first year at Wisbech Grammar School. He recently received a letter from the Deputy Head informing him he has been awarded an Academic Prize for the 2021-2022 academic year. Well done Seth we are very proud of you.

Zak Macaulay

Zak Macaulay, former School Captain, who left AHS in 2015, has completed his A-levels and is hopefully off to University in Manchester to study law. He hopes to specialise in sports law, where he can indulge his passion for football and other sports.

Kevin Pallister

We were very pleased to hear from our former chair of Governors, Mr Kevin Pallister. Last month he celebrated his 60th Birthday and is enjoying his retirement spending time with his Grandson, Freddie, who is 6 months old.

Sophia Mills

Having successfully completed my PhD, I have been busy working on several archaeological projects abroad in Iraq and currently in Sicily. For the programme in Iraq I worked for the British Museum as a specialist Osteologist, in conjunction with training Iraqi women to become archaeologists as part of the Emergency Heritage Training Scheme. I was based at the Darband-i Rania Archaeological Project for the final season (hopefully more funding to come in future, but none thus far). The excavations uncovered a Hellenistic Temple at the Qalatga site and a Neo-Assyrian Fort at Usu Asker (both in Northern Iraqi Kurdistan, near the Iranian border). My teaching was focused on Bioarchaeology, and I ran sessions on Archaeobotany (fossilised plant matter), Zooarchaeology (animals), and Osteology (humans - my specialism). The lectures and practical sessions were run in 3 languages, English, Arabic and Kurdish (huge respect and love for my translator Halala, who told me I was the hardest person she had ever translated for, due to all the technical terms!).

The Web page link: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/international/iraq-scheme>.

This next season in Iraq will be a different project with Reading University, a neolithic burial ground at Bestansur (also in the same region). So something slightly different. I found Iraq to be the most wonderful place; it was so much more liberal than expected, and the people are so loving and kind, particularly the women. The country is also very beautiful.

My current work in Sicily is very different, I work for Cranfield Forensic Institute, as part of the Cranfield Recovery and Identification of Conflict Casualties Team (CRICC), mainly on WW2 crash sites.

I hope to visit School next academic year for an interactive workshop sharing with the children the different strands of my work, and how it can be used practically.



A picture taken at the site in Iraq, Usu Asker at dawn

And finally from the Archives

May 18th 1961

At lunch-time today I slipped at the head of the stairs and fell to the bottom. The surface of the linoleum is far too shiny for safety.

Special thanks to all those who have contributed to our newsletter this year. It has been truly wonderful to have everyone back in school for a full academic year. The children and staff have very much enjoyed welcoming parents and family members through the gates once again to enjoy special events such as The Queen's Jubilee Celebration, Sports Day, Assemblies and Productions. We very much look forward to a successful 2022-2023 academic term and all that it brings!