



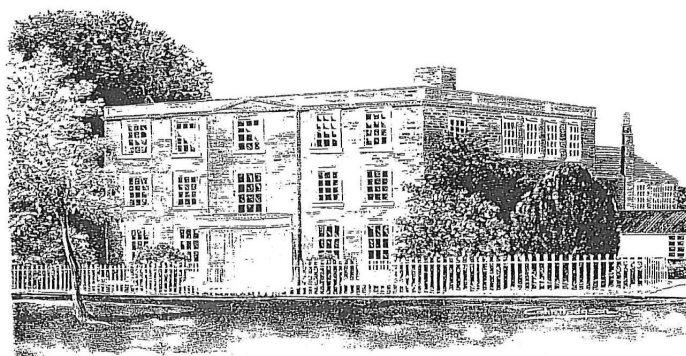
OLD AYSCOUGHFIANS

Issue 6

Special points of interest:

- Welcome
- The King's Coronation
- Spalding Flower Parade
- Visit From Dr. Sophia Mills
- Employee News
- Mr. Hendry's Obituary
- From The Archives

Welcome



Welcome to this sixth 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

Hello everyone and welcome to our latest Old Ayscoughfians newsletter.

This year in school has been a busy one, with three new teachers joining our staff. We have been delighted to welcome Mr Roberts, Mrs Lane and Mr Lawrence to our Ayscoughfee community and all have settled in and proven to be excellent additions to our team.

The children, as always, have been working hard and making us extremely proud. From taking part in sporting fixtures, winning prizes in the ISA arts competition, achieving our first silver award at national level in the primary maths challenge to working to

achieve various Eco awards, including Eco Schools Green Flag Status and Plastic Clever Schools Levels 1 and 2, they have represented the school impeccably and demonstrated the values we expect at Ayscoughfee. This year, we will be saying farewell to our Kindergarten teacher Mrs Strickson, who has taught at the school for 24 years and is a highly respected and much-loved member of our staff. Many of you will no doubt have very fond memories of Mrs Strickson during your time at Ayscoughfee, or indeed your children or even grandchildren's time. I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Strickson a long and happy retirement with her family.

The King's Coronation

May 6th 2023 was Coronation Day and for us all in school it was the very first Coronation Day ever!

The children and staff entered into the spirit of the event and by 5th May the school was festooned with artwork featuring the new King and Union Flag bunting with a stunning crown above the front porch. Mrs Lane made the shape from chicken wire and all the children in school made flowers to decorate it, using recycled materials such as aluminium cans, milk bottle tops and fabric off cuts. Woven in between were fairy lights which meant that after dark, the crown looked as magnificent (if maybe not as valuable) as the one worn by the King at his Coronation. We were also lucky enough to have a splendid Union Flag painted on the front lawn by Mr Surman which completed our celebratory decorations perfectly.

The children had great fun learning about the ceremony, the artefacts used throughout, such as the Orb and Sceptre and reading stories such as 'The King's Pants' and they were all given a pack of sunflower seeds to plant in commemoration of the day.

On 5th May we welcomed parents, grandparents and friends into School for tea and an afternoon of traditional games. The children performed a song especially composed for the occasion by our new music teacher, Mr Lawrence, some of Year 6 read a short biography of the new King and we ended the afternoon with the National Anthem. In true British fashion, the weather was a little worrying, but at least the downpour that had threatened all afternoon held off until the final bell went!





The Spalding Flower Parade

As those of you who live in the area know, the Spalding Flower Parade returned after a ten year absence on May 13th this year. We were delighted to be a part of it and given that the theme was 'Spalding through the Decades' and that we had missed our chance to celebrate our 100th birthday thanks to COVID, electing to join with an entry based on the 1920s seemed an obvious choice.

"The whole event showed not only the actual entry, but was a testament to the Ayscoughfee family"

Mrs Strickson designed the most amazing structure which slowly took on the form of Welland Hall, over the weeks, thanks to her dedication and the help of her after school 'Flower Parade' club. (If anyone wondered how the door was such a glorious shade of red, ask Mrs Strickson about her nail varnish collection).

The children and staff made fabric flowers with which to decorate it and we were all delighted with the finished model. Thank you Mrs Oldershaw for your help!

The day of the Parade was cold and grey, but the enthusiasm with which the children (and staff) waved and danced around the route was admirable. Mrs Wright managed a prime time interview shown that evening on Look North and we appeared on the following Monday too!

The whole event showed not only the actual entry, but was a testament to the Ayscoughfee family. Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Waite for the loan of their trailer (especially painted for the occasion!), Mr Steele for towing the trailer on the day and storing it for us, 'Flowers 'N' Things' for the stunning fresh flower arrangements that decorated Mr Steele's car and the trailer, Mrs Wade for the bunting and ex pupils Jenna and Gracie who led the children who took part.

Here's to 2024...





School Garden Project

Last year the school was proud to announce we had been accredited with the Eco Schools Green Flag Award. As part of our work towards gaining the award and the continued work towards sustainability, we committed to building a School Garden. We wanted to create a stimulating and motivating place for pupils to become actively involved in growing their own fruit and vegetables to use as the key ingredients in their cookery lessons– giving them a richer understanding of the value of growing and eating their own food and learning more about their outdoor surroundings.



The school's Eco Club run by Mrs Patman, and the School Council have been instrumental in the startup of The School Garden Project. Having identified the site for the garden, the children got busy putting their ideas down on paper and proposing designs for the garden.

The children's designs were shown to the school's wonderful PTFA who, along with Mr Darley, worked hard to create a superb final design incorporating the children's ideas; making it their mission to get our School Garden Project underway!

Fast forward a few months and work was well and truly underway. Mr Darley and a group of volunteers kindly gave up their Saturdays to start laying the foundations for the polycarbonate tunnel. It was a busy but successful day, the ground was dug over, ivy was removed from the fence and many holes were dug for the frame of the polycarbonate tunnel to be erected. Over the next few months our tireless team of volunteers, parents and teachers have spent many weekends completing the polytunnel, building sheds and raised beds, laying grass, shovelling soil, and painting.

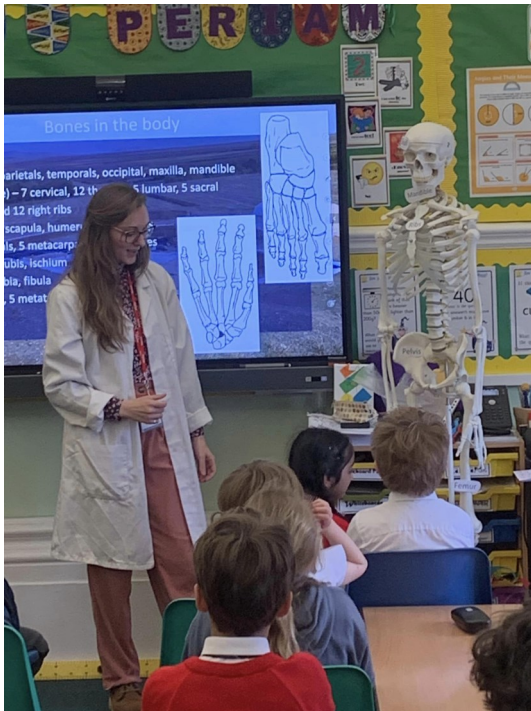
The results are truly stunning. The PTFA King Charles III Coronation Garden is ready for its grand opening. Eco club have planted tomatoes, chillies, cucumbers, and courgettes in the polytunnel and outside in the raised beds runner beans, peas, sweetcorn, and potatoes are progressing nicely! We have already harvested our first crop of tomatoes and cucumbers and used them in our cookery lesson to make stuffed peppers. The children have also had a taste of our cucumbers when we shared them as a delicious snack during our wellbeing week.

We are looking forward to the garden developing even more over the coming months and years. The birds are certainly loving the garden and the special bird table that Mrs Gibson and her mum restored for us. Thanks go as always to our wonderful PTFA, Mr Darley, Mr Fairbrother, Mr Halifax, Mr Clarke, Mr Steele, Mr Gent and Mrs Wright, The Patman Family and the Jeffries family.



School Visit From Dr Sophia Mills

At the start of the summer term, we were delighted to welcome ex pupil, Dr Sophia Mills, into school. Now a bio-archaeologist, Dr Mills came to talk to the children about her work and how it can help us learn about past societies, through the study of the human skeleton. The children heard about the digs in Iraq where she spends much of her time, learned about some of the tools she uses and about exciting archaeological finds. The children had great fun labelling a skeleton and making their own out of paper!



News of Old Ayscoughfians

We are always delighted to hear news of ex pupils and would love you to let us know what you have been up to, whatever the time of year!

Jason Naylor

I've been playing hockey since the age of 11 and had the opportunity to play and train with talented individuals, particularly while representing Loughborough University in the 90s. Key to my own hockey journey has been support from coaches who have given up their time to help myself and others develop and grow. Taking this on board, over the last 10 years I have been coaching at Spalding Hockey club with juniors and seniors, and over the last few months I decided to extend my coaching craft through the support of GB and England Hockey by learning new skills and qualifying as a Level 2/ Sessional coach. It has been a great experience, continual learning is really important to me, "everyday is a school day" as exploring something new allows growth and development and in this case will help me improve the sessions I run and give something back to the sport I love.

Welcome Mrs Lane, Year 4 Teacher



It seems almost impossible to believe that I started working at Ayscoughfee Hall School just shy of a year ago. I'm incredibly grateful to have become a part of the "Ayscoughfee family" and I'm honoured to have the opportunity to work with such a passionate group of people. I feel privileged to be pursuing my dream career at such an excellent school, and I have been embraced so warmly by the devoted staff, wonderful pupils and supportive parents.

I passionately believe that all children deserve the very best start in life, and that begins with first-class education through a stimulating curriculum. I have worked in education for the past 12 years and have held a range of positions to get to where I am today. I have a broad range of primary experience from Nursery to Year 6. This has enhanced my wider knowledge of the National Curriculum. During my first year at AHS, I have strived to provide all children with the opportunity to develop to their full potential, because no child is the same. I make it my priority to get to know children's interests, talents and struggles so I can provide a holistic approach of nurturing the whole child. Inclusion is a key part of my role to allow me to develop and adapt learning strategies to tailor my teaching approach to each child: from providing extra support to help a child understand, or spotting a particularly gifted child to ensure they are being fully extended.

I am our school's PSHE and RSE lead, and this is very close to my heart. Since my appointment at our wonderful school, I have been working hard to develop a curriculum concentrated around PSHE and RSE, creating a continuous thread of learning throughout the school and allowing previous learning to feed into new. The children are really enjoying their Jigsaw lessons and feedback from staff has been positive. Every child in my care is valued as an individual; I always aim to nurture confident, respectful children who are well-rounded members of our society. Through nurturing children on their journey to adulthood, I encourage each child to be proud of who they are and celebrate in being unique, open-minded, and independent individuals. All children in my care are motivated and inspired to be respectful of themselves and of others within school, our local community, and the wider world. I take my responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain extremely seriously and I ensure that the school values and the fundamental British Values are lived out through the work and ethos of the school.

I would like to finish with a huge thank you to everyone who has made my AHS journey so far what it is today, I could not be happier and look forward to many happy years yet.



Welcome Mr Roberts, Year 5 Teacher



I am thrilled to have started my journey at Ayscoughfee Hall School taking on the role of Year 5 teacher. The staff have taken me in with open arms, and the Ayscoughfee family is an absolute pleasure to be a part of. Everyone has been incredibly supportive and caring, and I feel extremely lucky to be here. Although new to Ayscoughfee, I have been teaching for over seven years. Prior to this, I was a teaching assistant and Sports Coach. I still have an energy and passion for learning and love transferring this across to my students. Working with such a lovely group of children here is a reward in itself!

When I was at school, I enjoyed learning when it was made fun. This is something I strive for in every lesson I teach, and the best bit: children don't even realise they are learning! To be in a career where you see children grow, develop confidence, and stretch themselves to new levels is a privilege. In school, one of my favourite subjects was maths, so I am really looking forward to leading this in the upcoming years and sharing this passion with both staff and students alike.

This year has raced by, and I look forward to many more adventures which are yet to come at this exceptional school. The extracurricular activities I have experienced with the children such as Hilltop, Burghley House, Spalding Water Taxi and The Planetarium have been my personal highlights of the year. It's a privilege working with Mrs Wright, Mrs Jeffries and Mrs White and the rest of the staff, and I am excited about spending many more years with the school.

Welcome Mr Lawrence, Music Teacher

Since joining Ayscoughfee in September 2022 I have managed to make lots of new friends. People have been warm and welcoming. Each week I look forward to coming to Spalding from the wilds of Norfolk to make music with, and for, the children at AHS. I have particularly enjoyed the whole school singing where we have learned a real range of songs from pop to gospel to music from other parts of the world, with some fun songs thrown in too. I still feel, however, that I can offer more to the school and I look forward to extending the music provision.



A Fond Farewell to Mrs Strickson

Sadly, this term we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Strickson who has been teaching our Kindergarten class for an impressive 24 years. Every year at the end of the academic year, we ask our year 6 leavers to share with us their fondest memories of the school and many children recount a memory from their Kindergarten years. A testament to how well Mrs Strickson nurtures the children in their first years of education.

We wish Mrs Strickson a wonderful and happy retirement and thank her for the years of dedication and service she has given to the school.



As I look back it is so hard to believe that I have been working at Ayscoughfee Hall School for just over 24 years.

I joined the school in 1999 where I started as a teaching assistant in Kindergarten working alongside Alison Wallis. Being able to work in the actual building that you used to go to school in feels quite weird, as I attended Spalding High School as a pupil in the 1970's. The present Kindergarten classroom used to be the old chemistry lab, the old canteen dinner hall was where the school hall is now, our high jump and long jump sandpits were where the car park is and being allowed to walk through the big red front door was an absolute treat as it was a big 'no' for pupils to use that door.

I enjoyed being a teaching assistant with the very youngest children, but it was Mr Chittick who had the belief in me and gave me the opportunity to progress my career and I became Kindergarten teacher when Alison retired.

I genuinely enjoy coming to school to work with an amazing team of teachers, support staff and of course all the children. Watching those very, very young children grow up and go through the different classes and then leave the school is a very proud feeling. There are so many funny little stories that I could retell about most of the children!

Art has always been a huge part of my life at AHS, running art, mosaic and sewing clubs and entering our school into lots of different competitions has made me feel that we have put our school well onto the Art map.

One of my biggest, proudest moments was getting the opportunity to create a float for the 2023 Flower Parade. I worked with a group of pupils to make a replica model of our school and every child in school made a fabric flower to adorn our beautiful creation. It was an absolutely thrilling day and I saw many children, parents and friends as we walked along the route waving and smiling at us.

I am excited to be moving onto a new chapter in my life, retirement with my husband, Neil. I have a lovely family; three daughters and their husbands and five beautiful grandchildren: I am very much looking forward to spending more time and having fun with them. They are all dotted about different parts of the country so travelling will play a big part in the future.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to all of the current staff, and onto the new Kindergarten teacher and I hope AHS continues to be the wonderful family school it is today.



Mr. Brian Hendry Obituary

Brian Hendry was a friend, parent, Governor and helper in school.

He was a very special person, and above all, a true gentleman and a very good friend of Ayscoughfee Hall School over many years. He had long been associated with the School and indeed, all four of his children were pupils here. The family connection continues today with his granddaughter, Thea, having started at the school in September 2022.

Brian was a dentist in the town and when he retired it allowed him time to volunteer and pursue his many interests and hobbies. He could often be seen on his bicycle in the town collecting shopping for elderly friends and relatives, often accompanied by his dog. His love of music and singing manifested itself in his becoming a member of local choirs and even performing abroad. He became a Director and Trustee of Ayscoughfee when his youngest sons, Matthew and Edward attended the School. In this role, he was always very hands-on; as well as attending Board meetings he was happy looking after children on school trips, helping with varying functions held by the School and being an ambassador for new parents. He was always cheerful and easy to talk to and his role on the Board was invaluable, as he helped to shape the way the School developed in our ever-changing society. His contribution was immense, and he will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Brian was an exceptional man and trying to put his life in to words doesn't seem to measure up to what an amazing person he was.

Margaret Waite

Former Company Secretary



And finally from the Archives

July 13th 1965

11:55a.m.

Mark Simon, aged 5 years, slipped in the toilet, banged his head on the lavatory pan and cracked it completely in two! His head does not appear to be damaged!