



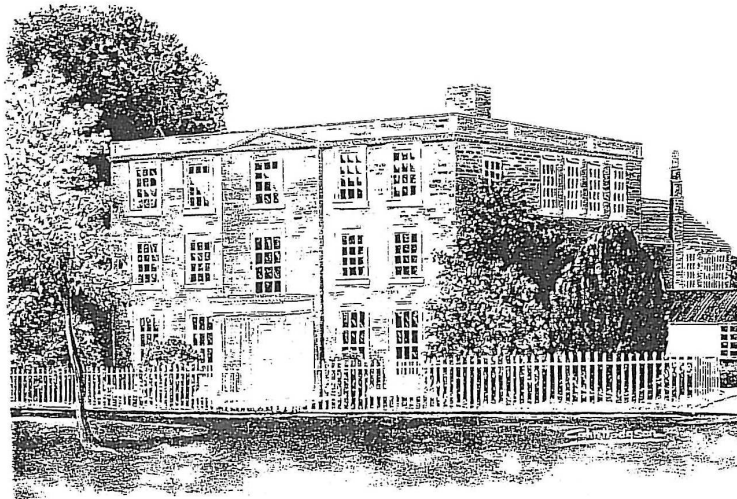
OLD AYSCOUGHFIANS

Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Welcome
- Changes in School
- News of a Past Teacher
- News of Old Ayscoughfians
- Centenary Celebrations
- From the Archives

Welcome



Welcome to this first edition of the Old Ayscoughfians newsletter.

In 2020, the School celebrates 100 years and in preparation for what promises to be an exciting year, we have formed an association of ex pupils and staff.

If you would like to keep us updated on your news, please contact the Deputy Head, Sally Chester, on SChester@ahs.me.uk Or Tori Grundy, a past pupil and now Teaching Assistant of the School on, torigrundy11@hotmail.co.uk

You may also wish to follow our Facebook page, Ayscoughfee Hall School Life.

Our newly updated website will be re launched during the coming academic year so keep an eye out for the Old Ayscoughfians page.

We will email anyone who has asked to be put on the ex-pupil database when the site is live.

Please spread the word too...we would love to reach more people.

We promise that future editions won't be as long...but after all, there are nearly 100 years to catch up on!

Happy Reading !

Welcome message from the Headteacher

What a privilege it is to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school with so much History. I have now been here five years and loved every minute.

I am delighted that as we approach our centenary we have heard back from so many pupils who clearly have genuinely lovely memories of their school life at

Ayscoughfee and I am really pleased to see how well everyone is doing.

I look forward to welcoming you all back for a number of events throughout our 100th year.

Clare Ogden
Headteacher



Changes in School

We are delighted with some of the recent changes to the building and curriculum at Ayscoughfee. For those of you who haven't visited recently, we have a new library, complete with wonderful 'Reading Snugs' and colourful furniture.



The staff kitchen has been refurbished and equipped and all classes from Year 2 upwards now have regular timetabled cookery lessons. Recent delights to emerge have been quiches, pasta sauces, vegetable soup, cookies and Christmas cakes.

"We have a new library complete with wonderful reading snugs"

We have new outdoor play areas, including a boat for younger children, a trim trail for older ones and a range of outdoor games, as well as a permanent wooden gazebo/outdoor classroom. These exciting developments could not have taken place without our amazing P.T.F.A. who continue to do an incredible job of organising fundraising social activities and our past and present parents who support them wonderfully.



We have also purchased land and turned it into a quiet garden for use by the older children. It also doubles as an excellent source of material for science lessons on habitats and mini beasts!

Hopefully you will be able to join us in 2020 to see these exciting developments...and more!



Mrs. Norma Barnes

Many past pupils will remember Mrs. Norma Barnes who returned to School recently and met our current School captains, Lottie and Oliver.

She began teaching at Ayscoughfee in 1969 when the smallest class had just 9 children and retired in 1996.

Talking to Lottie and Oliver she remarked on “how colourful” the school is now and that it “lifts you up” and laughed at the very idea of there being Teaching Assistants.

Cookery and computers weren’t even thought of and she remembers clearly being told when she started her job that “We work here. We do NOT play”.

Children did not do Science. Instead “We did nature: trees and birds”. There was no sport, no books for fun.

Mrs. Barnes remembers clearly the 50th Anniversary of VE day in 1995 when all the children dressed up and had a street party with staff dressed as land girls and Mr. Chittick dressed as an Army Captain.

She also remembers the move to the current site when the playground didn’t exist. “It was a swimming pool”, she recalls “and there were awful problems because there was frog spawn and the frogs kept coming back for years”.

Some of her colleagues from her time at Ayscoughfee remain: Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Wayman, Mrs. Mc Donald and Mrs. Chester, and she taught under three heads: Mrs. Credland, (“She was very strict and had a cane”), Mr. Sivil and Mr. Chittick.



Mrs. Norma Barnes reunited with Mrs. Catherine McCorry whom she worked with many years ago.

“When I started teaching in 1969, I remember clearly being told “We work here. We do NOT play”



Mrs. Norma Barnes meeting the current School Captains Charlotte Tasker and Oliver Baker



Mrs. Norma Barnes with her class of 1969—1970:
Back Row from left: Rebecca Taylor; Katie Huntsman; Trevor Wiltshire; Sally Gibbard; Jackie Gotobed (now Lewis); Janet Bealby; Simon Hodgitt.
Middle Row: Mandy Baxter; Timothy Jones; Rosemary Jones.
Front Row: Alex Grundy; Ben Halgarth; Simon Slinger; Virginia Oldershaw and Martin Drury

News of Old Ayscoughians

James Agate

My clearest memory is playing Ali-G for the Year 6 production of Ali Baba. Having just looked at the staff page on the website it was nice to see so many teachers and dinner ladies that I recognize. I'm now married and running a business. I've recently moved back to the area having spent a number of years in Chester.

Khylie Andrew

I live in Bourne with my partner and two children, a boy of 10 and a girl of 12. I took my N.V.Q in Childcare but now have my own cleaning and ironing business. I remember the original Ayscoughfee for the big red door and winding staircase.

Georgina Ashton

Since leaving School I have trained as a respiratory specialist nurse and now live in Norfolk with my husband. We are expecting our first baby. I remember being terrified of the school ghost, Boris, and have happy memories of the plays we put on. Thank you to all the teachers and the friends I made for all the happy memories

Matt Ashton

I went to St. George's College of Technology and Lincoln College and pursued a career in Rugby. I played for England students at Rugby, then decided sport was not the career I wanted. I went back to my roots and did an apprenticeship in agricultural engineering. I now work in Sleaford and help on the family farm as much as I can. I still play rugby for Sleaford, Lincolnshire and the Three Counties.

Leah Banham

I have just completed my degree in Forensics at Winchester and soon start a Masters course at Leicester in Science and Criminology. I hope eventually to have a career with the C.I.D. My Sister **Charlotte Banham** has just completed a degree in Marketing and our brother **Nathan** works for BMW and hopes to qualify as a Master Technician.

Karl Barfoot

It feels like only yesterday that I left Ayscoughfee, but in fact it is about 15 years ago! I went to Boston Grammar School for two years, then onto George Farmer. I studied plumbing for a while, then changed career path and became a carpenter. I live in Spalding and engaged to Ellie and have a one year old Son. It would be great to see the School, Staff and Students who were there at the same time as me.

Kelly Barfoot

Having completed my G.C.S.E's, I studied Beauty Therapy at Stamford College and became an Account Manager for Lancôme. I have since changed career and am now training to be a dental nurse in Long Sutton. I hope to qualify in 2018.

Paige Bell

I am currently studying to become a P.E. teacher at Nottingham University.

Phoebe Bell

I am the proud mum of a five year old son.

Jill Benner

My mum, Joan Benner (nee Baxter) went to Ayscoughfee and was in the first ever intake. I followed her in 1950 and the Head was Miss Black. I'm still in touch with lots of my ex classmates. My daughter, Julie (See Julie Gray, below) went in 1969.

Michael Bennett

I have fond memories of the school...I was Head Boy in Year 6 (which I think means I left the school in 1997!)

Henry Briggs

I left Ayscoughfee for the Grammar School in 2012. I have just finished my G.C.S.E.s and plan on taking A levels at the Grammar in Engineering, Physics and Maths; the plan is then University for an engineering degree.

Jessica Briggs

Left for the High School in 2010 and have just done A levels in Art, DT and Maths. I hope to go to the University of Leeds to study Graphic Design and Communication in September.

Joanne Browne (nee Battley)

I attended Ayscoughfee Kindergarten before moving to St. Norbert's. I have happy memories of my time at Ayscoughfee. I now live in Nottingham.

Pippa Chester

I graduated from the University of Bournemouth in 2014 with a First in Public Relations and now live and work in London where I am an Account Manager for a P.R. firm.

Becky Chittick

My education at Ayscoughfee set the best foundation possible for my learning opportunities. It led to Spalding High School where I took my A levels and achieved the grades I needed to get to be accepted by the University of Dundee in 2007. I studied Midwifery for 3 years gaining a wealth of knowledge and practical skills. I loved University and made some amazing friends but I missed my family so in November 2010 I returned home and became a Midwife at Peterborough City Hospital. I now live in Market Deeping. My colleagues are amazing and have helped me flourish. We all work extremely hard to give women and their families the best experience of childbirth that they can have. Midwifery was my vocation since the age of 15 and I can't imagine doing anything else!

Nicky Cox

I studied English Literature with Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia and then did a Masters in Writing the Modern World. I am now pursuing a career in writing fiction.

Sarah Cox

I left secondary school and spent a year working as a lifeguard in America. I got my B.Ed. in Primary Teaching and have worked as a Year 5 class teacher and an instructor at an outdoor centre in Wales. I am now PE teacher at Whaplode C.o.E. Primary School and planning to run in the Great North Run in September.

News of Old Ayscoughians

Annie Fletcher

I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown from when I was walking through the gates into the playground at Ayscoughfee, to now, walking into hospital for a shift on the Labour Ward. Moving to London has been a big change, although I am certain that playing in the home corner stood me in good stead for our London flat. Going to University to study Midwifery has been an adventure with lots of challenges; all of them worth it. Supporting women and their families through pregnancy, their birth and taking their new babies home is such a privilege. It is amazing to think that after just a year and a half on the course I have helped mums bring 21 little babies into the world. This is not something that I ever expected I would be doing and even with all of these exciting changes I am still very much the clumsy Annie that played 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' in the Nativity.

Jo Flowers

I am Assistant manager for Boodles in Harrods (having spent so much time in Drydens and Number One!) and still very close to my old friend from Ayscoughfee, **Becky Chittick**. My brother, **Ollie Flowers**, is a solicitor in Peterborough, specialising in Corporate Law.

Julie Gray

Mrs. Credland was my Head and we had the whole of Ayscoughfee Gardens to play in. We totally took that for granted but with hindsight it was a wonderful free experience. One of my best friends was **Ginny Oldershaw** and it was very poignant that our sons would be at Ayscoughfee together. My other friends included **Lucy Grant, Helen Goose, Guy Topper, Richard Johnson, Adrian Louis, Ben Halgarth, Alex Grundy, Kate and Emma Huntsman, Jane Coward** (whose house I now live in), **Jeremy Pang** and **Simon Eley**. He was so naughty and always getting the cane!

We used to have fish and chips on a Friday from **Andrew McCullochs** dad's shop in the Winsover Rd. **Mrs Barnes** was my favourite teacher even though she did make me stand in the corner for being naughty. **Miss Reeks** took Kindergarten and **Mrs Cowell** and **Mrs Credland** taught in the same room. I think Mrs Cowell took Year 4 and Mrs. Credland Years 5 and 6. She used to smoke in the classroom and we never thought anything of it. I remember she lived down Northgate and had a pet monkey, Billy, who used to eat any left over fish and chips. My mum had to go into hospital once and I sat on her knee all day and sobbed whilst she carried on teaching. She was one in a million...a heart of gold.

Samuel Gray

I'm completing my A levels at Stamford School and might take a gap year to travel before starting an Agricultural Degree.

Sophie Gray

I'm doing an Apprenticeship at Little Treasures Nursery and loving it!

Joe Grundy

I have just graduated from Harper Adams Agricultural University and am now working at Emmett's Farm. I plan on a Post Graduate gap year.

Tori Grundy

I have never left! I arrived back in 2012 and am working as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1. Lots has changed!

Henry Halgarth

Of my family who attended in Miss. Black's time, only **Veronica Chapman** survives, but my father, **John**, and Aunt **Jane** also attended Ayscoughfee. My three brothers and I all attended in Mrs. Credland's era...and my children, James and Kate more recently.

James Halgarth

I now work for an N.H.S. Trust in Cambridge as a Data Analyst.

Kate Halgarth

I graduate in July and then start the Marks and Spencer Graduate Scheme in Sheffield.

Emily Harpham

I went from Ayscoughfee to the High School and then did A levels at the Grammar School. I completed a B.Sc. in Sports Science at the University of the West of England and my Masters in Physiotherapy at Leeds Metropolitan University. I fell in love with Leeds, so remained there and now work as a physiotherapist in Leeds Teaching Hospitals and as a Pilates Instructor. I bought my first home in the city last year and am engaged to be married in 2019. Whatever next?

Chelsey Hobbs

I studied Graphic Design and lived in Sheffield for three years. I moved to New Zealand two and a half years ago and am applying for permanent residency. I live five minutes down the road from another ex Ayscoughfee pupil, **Alex Lyon!**

Hayley Hobbs

I left Ayscoughfee for the High School in 1998, completed my G.C.S.Es and went on to study nursing at Boston College. Having decided this wasn't for me I worked at Fowler Welch for nearly 8 years before deciding to go travelling. We spent 6 months in South East Asia before a broken collar bone ended our adventure. Returning to the UK I bought my first property with my partner...a complete renovation project. The house is now finished and we have a beautiful little girl. Life is good...becoming a mother has made me incredibly happy!

Izzy King

I joined Ayscoughfee in Year 4 having been Home Educated and when I left I was Home Educated again.

I took my G.C.S.E.s and then a BTEC in Health and Social care at Peterborough Regional College. After this I did a diploma in dance and then began a course at the University of Central Lancashire to study Teaching Dance. I have performed at Alton Towers, the Royal Albert Hall and on the Strictly Come Dancing Tour.

Damian Larrington

I was at the school between 1990 and 1993 and was Deputy Head Boy. The three years I spent at Ayscoughfee were, without doubt, the happiest of my school years.

News of Old Ayscoughfians

Dominic Layton Hannam

I am a tennis coach in Spain. My sister, **Lucinda Layton Hannam**, is in London and works as a Procurement Manager for a fruit company.

George Lennon

I was at Ayscoughfee from Kindergarten through to Year 6, and then went on to the Grammar School. I am about to finish a Masters Degree at the University of Leeds. I have wonderful memories of my time at Ayscoughfee and it would be good to meet up with some old classmates.

Samantha (Sam) Lewis

I was at the original Ayscoughfee when Mrs. Credland was Head (she was a very scary character) and before we moved to Church St. and Mr. Sivil took over. I have fond memories of my time at the school. My friend and I had an unfortunate encounter with a flasher one day whilst we had our break in Ayscoughfee Gardens and the boys always headed off to receive their strokes of the cane with books down their trousers. Oh...and a mouthful of TCP whenever you picked up the school recorders for music lessons. **James Pridmore** could always keep us entertained by wrapping his legs around his head and walking on his hands. Fun times!

Scarlett Lewis

I am now at Newton Linford Primary School. I enjoy Brownies, walking and riding and have competed for the school in different sporting events. A special 'Hello' to all my friends in Year 5 and good luck for your I I+ next year.

Sol Lewis

I have just taken my GCSEs and plan on staying at De Lisle Catholic Academy, Loughborough, to take A levels in Biology, Chemistry and PE. I continue to play the violin, which I began to learn at Ayscoughfee and play rugby and football for the school. I also play football for a local team.

Summer Lewis

I am at the same school as Sol and I have just chosen my G.C.S.E. options and I enjoy riding and zumba classes.

Beth Lockyear

Having gained a scholarship to the Arts Educational School in Chiswick I am now doing a degree at the Guildford School of Acting. I have appeared on stage in various productions and was an extra in the Spike Island film.

Sophia Mills

I left Ayscoughfee for the High School and since leaving there I have travelled the world and taken degrees in Archaeology, History and Osteology. I am currently working as a microbiologist near Bath and studying for my PhD in Osteoarchaeology through the University of Reading.

Lucy Myers

I left Ayscoughfee in 2000 and went to Gresham's School in Norfolk leaving with A levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics. I graduated from the University of Leeds in 2011 and went on to take my Masters in Engineering. I married Oliver in 2013 and we now live in the countryside near Leeds with our little dog, Theo.

Jonathan Palgrave

I was a pupil at the school when it was based in Church Street (1986 to 1991) I remember the old Head, Mr. Sivil and was in the first class to be taught by Mr. Chittick. I remain good friends with my best friend from Ayscoughfee, **Jonathan Swift**.

Jeremy (Jez) Pang

I was at the school from 1971 to 1978 when Mrs. Credland was the Headmistress. I had the pleasure of being Head Boy in my final year, as I never fail to remind my children. I remember a lot of fun times at the school. My sister, **Louise Maplethorpe (nee Pang)**, was also at the school from 1972 to 1979.

Lewis Pryke

I left about 10 years ago I think...about 2006/7.

Jack Riddington

I left Ayscoughfee and boarded at Stamford School for 5 years. I then went on to the Royal Agricultural University to study Agricultural Business Management. I got my degree and am touring the world...currently in Australia.

Katy Rowbottom(nee King)

I left Ayscoughfee in 2009 and am now married.

Becca Smith

I started at Ayscoughfee in 1975 when I was three. Mrs. Credland was Head when I started. After leaving I went to Kirkstone and then to Stamford College. I worked for Live Promotions and more recently in the Agricultural and Commercial Department at Longstaffs as an Admin Assistant. I live in Moulton, have two sons aged 16 and 18, a fiancée and a black lab named Bella.

Campbell Smith

I left in 1981, went to the Grammar School and then Aston University. I now live in Newbury, Berkshire, am married and a Chartered Accountant.

Amy Tinn

I left Ayscoughfee, completed A levels at Spalding High School and joined Bakkavor nearly six years ago in Food Development. Now, as a manager, I work alongside a large team and love it. I bought my first home last year.

Luke Wayman

I did a degree at Derby University, graduating with a B.Sc. in Product Design, Innovation and Marketing. I live in London and am married with two children.

Matt Winyard

I have many fond memories of my time at Ayscoughfee. I am still in Spalding, married and have a daughter. It was, in fact, Mr. Chittick's daughter, Becky, who delivered our daughter! Even then I felt I had to be on my best behaviour! I have worked in the family company since 2005 and continued studying part time. I am now a Mechanical Design Engineer.

News of Old Ayscoughians

And finally our most senior Old Ayscoughian, Mr Ian Smith, has been kind enough to send us an account of his time as a pupil at Ayscoughfee. He began at the school in 1934, leaving for the Grammar School in 1938 to join the "Prep Department".

We are grateful for the time and trouble he has taken to write such an interesting and lively account and look forward to welcoming him to our Junior Production this July.

In later editions we plan on bringing you further details of a life best described as fascinatingregard this, if you will as Chapter One.

Thank you.

From IAN SMITH, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk

Figures refer to page numbers in "Celebrating 75 Years of Ayscoughfee Hall School (AHS) 1920-1995"

An early May morning of brilliant sunshine, a few minutes to eight o'clock, and a green bus stands outside Holbeach church ready for its departure to Spalding on the hour. Belonging to the splendidly-named Lincolnshire Road Car Company, it was a frail-looking, wheezily-engined vehicle of 1920's vintage prone to periodic breakdowns en route: occasions of great interest and excitement to a small schoolboy.

It was to this conveyance that my mum led me that morning. The year was 1934. I was five years old and it was to be my first day at school. Also approaching the bus was a young lady called Mary Hix, who - conveniently - was at that time an assistant at Ayscoughfee School. It was into Mary's safe hands that mother delivered me that morning and subsequently for secure transportation. Safe journeys interrupted pleasantly on occasion by vehicle breakdown and unpleasantly by travel sickness.

And so to Ayscoughfee. My first memory is of a kindly welcome from Miss Black, and then - in the 'back' east-facing room - of the sun shining on a large sand tray which formed the centre-piece for what seemed eternal playtime for us small children.

Thus began my totally unblemished happy years at Ayscoughfee. Soon I forsook the daily bus and travelled by train, now under the care of Dorothy Channing, a Holbeach lady assisting Miss Black as teacher of the younger children. The rail journey was much more fun for a boy: no more travel sickness now, and busy Spalding station a source of endless fascination at all hours. Seven platforms served this large and vital junction of six converging rail routes: from Sutton Bridge, King's Lynn and the Norfolk hinterland; March, Ely, Harwich; Peterborough and London; Bourne and Leicester; Lincoln and Doncaster; Boston and Grimsby. Who could dream of it now! Or, for that matter, imagine travelling - as we did on the King's Lynn line - in small six-wheeled, non-corridor carriages built in the 1880's for the then Great Eastern and Great Northern rail companies, and latterly handed down to the M&GN. Things improved a bit in the late 30's when we received hand-downs from the former London & North Western: ancient bogie coaches, gas-lit, but with corridors and toilets. Luxury! I estimated that, during my boyhood and youth travelling solely on school journeys, I covered 31,000 miles by rail.

Back at Ayscoughfee life was happy and fun. They were delightful years. Miss Black was sensibly strict (not stern) and we both liked and respected her. Inevitably in that era there was none of today's wide-ranging syllabus, but a solid grounding in the "Three R's" as they were then termed, which laid the essential foundation on which later learning could be built. Creative work figured prominently: making useful domestic and decorative items (some of which I still have); a pipe fashioned out of stout bamboo (still in the original fabric cover that I made for it) - and on which I can still play tunes; Robin Hood costumes - plus bows and arrows (no H&S then). There was regular dancing and skipping to English folk tunes (played on Miss Black's wind-up gramophone) in the Great Hall. I loved the music.

*"Life was happy
and fun. They
were delighted
years"*

The historic gem of Ayscoughfee Hall was set in the midst of beautiful grounds and gardens which were constructed and cared for by the groundsman-gardener Mr Tero. The History (19) refers to his wife, highly popular with us children for the excellence of her ice creams - Italian surely? They were delicious. A penny cornet was average and adequate. A tuppenny one was luxury. The fabulous fourpenny one beyond dreaming of. On one occasion I'd saved my pennies and the great moment came. Mrs Tero handed me an enormous creation, the size of my fist, perched on top of its cornet. I had just got outside, anticipating my first lick, when instability and gravity won the day and the colossal ice cream fell from its perch with a resounding *splatt!!!* to the stones below. Oh the grief! And probably tears ...

For sports and games we went through the gate on the far side of the gardens, across Love Lane to the 'rec' field, now built over, of course; but on occasions to the house directly opposite Ayscoughfee on the far side of the Welland. The house is still there - with the same distinctive windows and frontage. This was the home of Merle (pronounced Meryl) Heard who figures in the photo (23) in the AHS history, along with me - misnamed as John Smith - to my displeasure! I believe Miss Black was friendly with Merle's parents, and we had the use of their big garden at the rear of the house for games on occasions.

I remember Miss Black with great affection, she was unfailingly kind. I recall, more than once, being taken back with her to have lunch in her apartment in 'Tower House'. My brother Stuart (four years younger than I) began as a little boy at the School attending mornings only, and returning to Holbeach on the 12.55pm train (in charge of the guard!). Miss Black, in her lunch hour, would put Stuart on the saddle of her bike and wheel him to the station daily to catch the train.

Punishments were virtually unheard of. I can only remember one incident: a pretty red-haired girl called Josephine being kept in over one mid-morning break for some misdemeanour, So rare, so mild, it stuck in my mind. Never did any such sanction overtake me. Though I did push my luck on one occasion.

The year was 1937 and I would have been eight. The previous year had been memorable on two counts: the death of King George V, with the ensuing prominence of his stately and formidable widow, Queen Mary, as she sought to manage the drama over her eldest son David, who, as King Edward VIII had fallen in love with an American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. The famous 'Abdication crisis' ensued in which the Queen played a leading role. The other headline-hitting event of '36 was the launching and maiden voyage of the Cunard Line's iconic trans-Atlantic liner "Queen Mary".

"Punishments

were virtually

unheard

of...though I did

push my luck on

one occasion"



Sports Day 1936 - Ian Smith pictured middle row second from the left

News of Old Ayscoughfians

So it was that Miss Black and I happened to meet at the top of the big staircase to the first-floor school one lunchtime:

Me: "Miss Black, would you like to hear a joke?"

ATB: "Well, yes lan, what have you got to tell me?"

Me: "What did the fish see in 1936?"

ATB: "I have no idea"

Me: "Queen Mary's bottom"

A pregnant pause ...

ATB (sternly): "I don't think that's funny in the least, lan. I am not at all amused by it".

I felt duly crushed, and for the moment shades of Queen Victoria drifted across my mortified gaze. To this day the recollection of the event, and the 'joke' which I thought at that age was side-splitting, brings tears of laughter to my eyes. towards the end.

Thus passed the only stern words I can ever recall being addressed to me during my happy four years. So I am deeply distressed by accounts in the 'History' of Miss Black's resorting to the cane in her later years (27-31). Neither Stuart nor I can believe it. The word, let alone the instrument or its application, were unheard of in our day. History seems to record two entirely different people. One can only surmise that ATB stayed in her job too long, well beyond retirement age, grew tired as time took its toll on stamina and temper, and found the task of keeping control over an increasing number of lively children a growing problem. It is a great shame that her reputation as a kindly person and an excellent teacher should have been so clouded towards the end.

Following those happy formative four years I was moved to the Grammar School in the spring of 1938 at the age of nine, joining the most junior form of the "prep department". Mr Driver was the headmaster and the school numbered 180 boys. Small then - by today's standards - but to me big, impressive, and 'grown-up' compared with Ayscoughfee, and the teachers (or 'masters') strange and a little intimidating in their black gowns.

"Miss Black was sensibly strict (not stern) and we both liked and respected her"



Pictured centre Miss Alice Black, Headmistress of Ayscoughfee Hall School from 1926 - 1958

Centenary Celebrations

We are beginning to plan events for our centenary celebrations in 2020. If anyone has any suggestions for events that they would like to see included, please feel free to contact Sally Chester on the e-mail address at the start of this Newsletter.

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!

Mark...If you are out there...it would be great to hear from you!

Special thanks to all who sent in contributions to the Newsletter, to the Editorial team (Tracy Baxter, Sally Chester, Tori Grundy and Sharon Macaulay) and Jo Wade in the office for making sense of our many drafts and creating the final product.