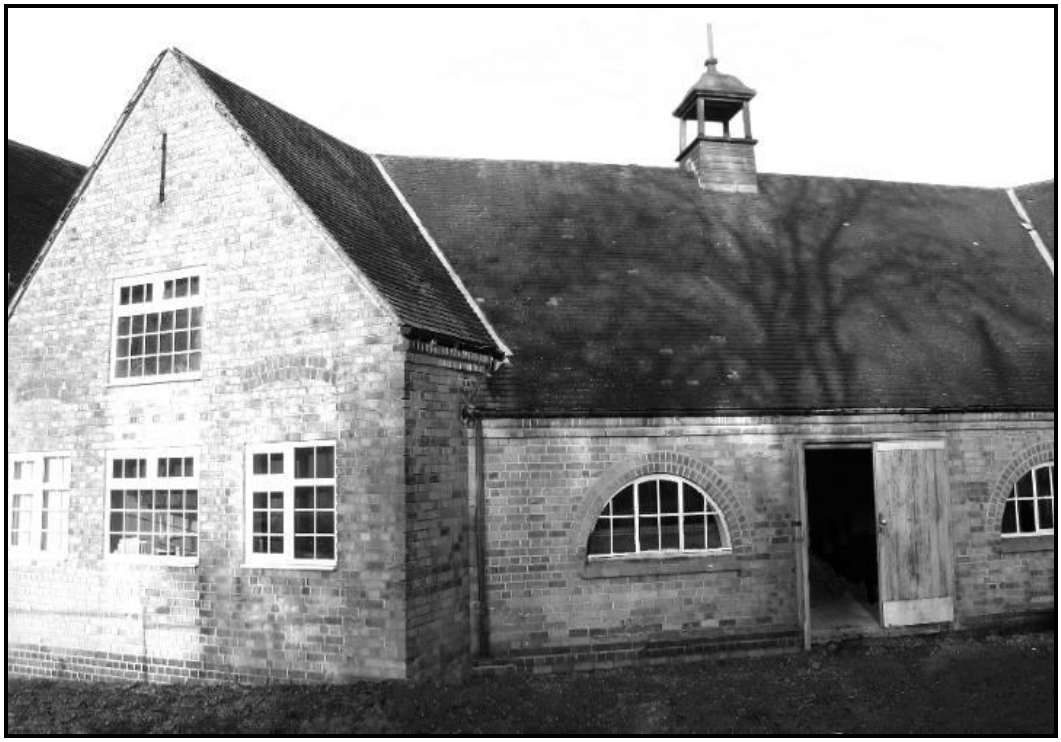
# GRIFFYDAM 'ADULT EVENING INSTITUTE' EVENTS

**The Griffydam'Adult Evening Institute' classes, were held in the Griffydam Senior School (also known as the County school) on School lane Hill, Pegg's Green,**



**Griffydam Senior School where the evening adult school was established**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCT 2026**

## INTRODUCTION

After the Second World War, Post-war adult education in the UK expanded significantly following the **1944 Education Act (Butler Act)**, which required local education authorities (LEAs) to provide community and adult learning facilities. This led to a wave of new evening institutes, local adult education centres, short-term and long-term residential colleges, and national advisory bodies. From available records we can see that by 1920 an Adult Evening Education Institute had already been established at Griffydam and was still shown to be operating in 1959, The exact date of opening and closure are not known at the time of writing. By 1957, there is evidence that evening classes were also being held in other local schools such as Newbold C of E and Swannington C of E. Subjects being taught included art needlework, woodwork, dressmaking, Pitman's Shorthand and Typewriting, up to commercial standards, St. John's Ambulance certificates, commercial arithmetic, basketry and cane work, book keeping etc. From the numerous newspaper reports available it seems that Griffydam was a highly respectable and successful institution, complimenting The Coalville Mining and Technical institute. There follows two examples of newspaper reports relating to the Griffydam institute.

# A FINE 'SEWING AND WOODWORK EXHIBITION' HELD IN THE 'ADULT EVENING INSTITUTE, GRIFFYDAM' (March 1948)

A fine exhibition of art needlework and woodwork by students of the 'Adult Evening Institute', Griffydam. was held in the Griffydam Senior School (also known as the 'County school') on School lane Hill, Pegg's Green, on Saturday, This, being the first since the War ended, in order to give members of the public an opportunity of seeing examples of the excellent work produced. The Griffydam Adult Evening Institute was located in the aforementioned school and the classes were held there.

The exhibition was organised by the headmaster, of the 'Adult Evening institute', Mr. F. Tapp, and opened by Mrs. T. Pepper, wife of the headmaster of Bridge Road School, Coalville. Mrs. Elcock of Osgathorpe presided (Wife of the current headmaster of Griffydam Senior School and former headmaster of Newbold C of E School).

Great interest was shown by visitors from all parts of the district, who saw many fine examples of work in both sections of the exhibition. Some 50 students attend classes in these sections.

Particularly admired were the lovely tapestries on show. Mrs. M. Knighton, Coleorton who teaches the art needlework section, told a Coalville Times reporter that there was heaps of talent among local people and mentioned one student who had turned out such good work for a number of years that she now had a collection worth £500. 'All of it is of a very high standard', she said.

Tapestries, period work, and bedspreads are among the articles she has made. When she first came she could do nothing at all. Now, she is better than the teacher.

Needlework has made a difference to Coleorton Mrs. Knighton concluded. 'In many homes work of very real beauty has been framed and will be handed down to succeeding generations.'

**The above was partly transcribed from the Coalville Times - 26th March 1948**

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Both the writers elder sisters, Betty and Greta Stewart (who have both passed away) attended these classes and produced some beautiful embroidery and tapestry work, some of which was framed and displayed at home in Stoney Lane, and in their own houses on the upper Moor after they were married. The writer well remembers as a young lad going to Mrs. Knightons on Lower Moor Rd, Coleorton to fetch skeins of coloured silks for his sisters which she kept in stock. May Knighton was a lovely and well respected lady who was also President of Coleorton Darby and Joan Club and her husband owned Knighton's garage adjacent to the old Coleorton P.O.

**Continued over page**

**EXAMPLES OF NEEDLEWORK DONE BY BETTY STEWART IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE INSTITUTE WHICH WERE LEFT TO THE AUTHOR'S WIFE**





# GRIFFYDAM ADULT EVENING INSTITUTE SOCIAL - February 1949

A large gathering of members of the staff, students and friends of the 'Griffydam Adult Evening Institute', spent a very enjoyable evening at the County School on Saturday.

Mr. M. H. Haddock, principal of the Coalville Mining and technical Institute, presented E.M.E.U. certificates to Margaret Sanderson, Joyce Sketchley, Mary Toon, and Mary Kilby, students who were successful in last year's examinations.

Later in the evening, a presentation was made to Mr. F. W. Tapp Bsc, *known as Fred*, who has been a responsible teacher at the institute for a number of years, and has now left to take up new duties as headmaster of the Littleover Secondary Modern School, Derbys. The presentation was made by Mrs. Platts, a member of the 'Art Needlework' class. *Mr. Tapp made great achievements at the Littleover school and also became headmaster of Littleover Adult Institute*. *Mr.Tapp was headmaster at the Littleover school for 20 years, retiring in August 1969.*



**Mr. F. W. Tapp. Bsc.**

Party games, dancing, and a cinema show providing the evening's entertainment, and lady members of the institute were responsible for refreshments. Later ice-cream was served.

Mr. Roland Hull, chairman of the District Committee was in the chair, supported by Mr. E. Elcock, a former responsible teacher of the institute, and headmaster of the school. M.C's for the evening were Mr. F. W. Tapp, Mr. H. W. K. Smith and Mr. J. Fort.

**The above text was part transcribed from the Coalville Times - 11th Feb 1949**

# EXAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RELATING TO GRIFFYDAM ADULT EVENING INTITUTE

## GRIFFYDAM INSTITUTE EVEN HAD THEIR OWN CRICKET TEAM

**Record of a game against Coalville Wesleyans'**
**Coalville times - 25th June 1920**

| **Griffydam Institute** | |
|---|---|
| T. Croson, b A. Stevens ..... | 0 |
| W. Hodges, c Bradshaw, b Stevens ... | 4 |
| J. Leech, lbw, b R. Sheppard ..... | 4 |
| T. Bradford, run out ..... | 19 |
| H. S. Johnson, run out ..... | 10 |
| T. Leech, b A. Baker ..... | 3 |
| W. Saddington, c Cramp, b A. Baker... | 0 |
| E. Brooks, run out ..... | 3 |
| J. H. Hodges, run out ..... | 5 |
| W. Hutchinson, b A. Stevens ..... | 0 |
| J. Stevenson, c March, b Baker .... | 2 |
| **Extras .....** | **7** |
| **Total .....** | **57** |

**COALVILLE WESLEYANS v GRIFFYDAM INSTITUTE**
**Scores:**

| **Coalville Wesleyans** | |
|---|---|
| O. Cramp, b W. Saddington ..... | 4 |
| W. Bradshaw, b W. Saddington ..... | 14 |
| E. Ball, b W. Saddington ..... | 3 |
| A. Storer, c Johnson, b Saddington .... | 29 |
| S. Walker, b W. Saddington ..... | 0 |
| A. Stevens, run out ..... | 6 |
| R. Sheppard, b W. Saddington ..... | 5 |
| A. Baker, b W. Saddington ..... | 1 |
| E. March, b W. Saddington ..... | 0 |
| G. Storer, c Leech, b Saddington ..... | 6 |
| G. Kendrick, not out ..... | 3 |
| **Extras** ..... | **4** |
| **Total .....** | **75** |

# VARIOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

**Coalville Times - Friday 30th July 1926.**

## EVENING SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS
## GRIFFYDAM RESULTS

The following examination experience of students attending the Griffydam Evening Institute are to hand:-

St. John's Ambulance Association - First aid certificate - Frederick Hodges, William Wardle, Jack Weston, James Weston, Thomas Smith, Walter Davies, William Watson, Thomas Yates, Ernest Yates, James H. Reid, Ernest H. Gowtage; Voucher - Harry Williams: Medallion - Albert E. Hemsley; Label - James Reid, Elijah T. Toon

Pitman's Shorthand Certificate

Speed 80 words - Gladys N. Johnson and Eva Johnson: Theory - Gladys N. Johnson, Herbert H. Holmes; Elementary - Walter Stacey, Lilly Hinds, May Johnson and J. Arthur Marriot

East Midlands Educational Union

English - Grade 1

John Arthur Marriot, 1st Class

French - Grade 1

John Arthur Marriot - 1st Class

Commercial Arithmetic - Grade 1

Marjorie Biddle and Hilda Wilton - 2nd Class

Commercial Arithmetic - Grade 2

Emeline Davies - 1st Class

John Arthur Marriot - 2nd Class

William Ernest Pickering - 1st Class

Shorthand Theory - Grade One

Lily Hinds and J Arthur Marriot - 1st Class

May Johnson and Walter Stacey - 2nd Class

Shorthand - Grade 2

Eva Johnson and Gladys N. Johnson - 2nd Class

Commercial Correspondence - Grade 1

Marjorie Walker - 2nd Class

Commercial Correspondence - Grade 2

Emeline Davies and John Arthurur Marriot - 2nd Class

Typewriting - Grade 1

Marjorie Biddle and Hilda Wilton - 2nd Class

Typewriting - Grade 2

Emeline Davies, Gladys N. Johnson and Marjorie Walker - 2nd Class

Mining, Junior Group Course

Joseph Brooks, James Austin Knight and F. E. Taylor.

**Coalville times - Feb 18th 1927**

## GRIFFYDAM.

**Social Gathering.** The annual social gathering of students and friends of the Evening Institute was held in the Council School, on Saturday evening, when nearly 200 participated in a very enjoyable evening. After a brief report by the head teacher on the work of the present session, Mr. M. H. Haddock, F.G.S., gave an enthusiastic and inspiring address, which was exceptionally well received.

Certificates were presented to the successful students of last session by Mr. J. A. Goodman, J.P., who congratulated the students and teachers on the results of their efforts, and gave some good advice to the young people present.

The musical part of the programme was provided by Mrs. Knighton's "Gipsy Troupe," and Mr. Bagshaw, of Coalville, while the various games went along with a real "community" spirit.

**Coalville Times - Aug 26th 1927**

**GRIFFYDAM EVENING INSTITUTE**

**EXAMINATION RESULTS**

The following results of examinations held at the end of last session have been received:

**St. John Ambulance Association:**

First Aid Certificate: Lewis Draper, Arthur Else, Jonas Knight, James Richards, A. E. Waterfield, J. B. Williams.

Voucher: F. R. Hodges, Thomas Smith, John A. Weston, James Weston.

**East Midland Educational Union:**

Commercial Arithmetic, Grade 1: Nancy Lord (2nd class); Grade 2: Wm. E. Pickering and Catherine H. Wilton (2nd class).

Commercial Correspondence, Grade 1: Marjorie Biddle (2nd class); Grade 2: Wm. E. Pickering and Catherine H. Wilton (2nd class).

Typewriting, Grade 2: Marjorie Biddle (2nd class).

Book-keeping, Grade 1: Catherine H. Wilton, Marjorie Biddle and Wm. E. Pickering (2nd class).

**Mining Junior Group Course:** John Poyser.

**Coalville Times - Aug 2nd 1929**

## GRIFFYDAM.

**Evening Institute.** The following successes were gained in the examinations held at the end of last session.

**Pitman's shorthand (Elementary Certificate):**
J. W. Brooks, D. W. Foster and C. L. Simpkins.

**East Midland Educational Union: Book-keeping (Grade One):**
J. W. Brooks (first class) and D. W. Foster (first class).

**Commercial Arithmetic (Grade One):**
D. W. Foster (first class) and C. L. Simpkins (first class).

**Commercial Correspondence:**
J. W. Brooks (second class).

**Coalville times - Feb 14th 1930**

## Griffydam

The annual social gathering of Evening School pupils and friends took place in the Griffydam Council School on a recent evening. When a most enjoyable evening was spent. In a short report on the work of the school, the head teacher, Mr. R. Elock, stated that the number of students enrolled this session was the highest in the history of the school, and this promised well for its future success. Certificates were presented to successful students of last session by Alderman J. A. Tomlinson, J.P., who, with Mr. C. H. Frake, C.C., Mr. Haddock (Principal of Coalville Mining and Technical Institute) and Mr. H. M. Cathcart congratulated students and teachers on the work that was being done. An exhibition of basketry, leatherwork, and woodwork was arranged in one of the classrooms. In a musical programme, songs by Miss N. Brealey and Miss D. Smith, and harmonium items by Mr. Turner (Melbourne) and Mr. Anderson were much appreciated. The remainder of the evening was given up to games which were thoroughly enjoyed by the young people. Mr. J. Johnson presided and there were nearly 200 present.

**Coalville Times - Aug 1st 1930**

# GRIFFYDAM
## Evening Institute

The following students were successful in the examinations held at the end of last session: -

**Commercial arithmetic (E.M.E.U.):**
1st class, Jane A. Mitchell;
2nd class, Phyllis Birch, Elizabeth Fairbrother, Dorothy Hutchinson, Geo. E. Grant.

**Pitman's Shorthand (elementary):**
Jane A. Mitchell, Margaret Challoner, Olive Elcock, G. Winston Fowkes (Theory), John W. Brooks.

**St. John Ambulance Association (first aid):**
T. A. Francis, G. A. Kilby, A. Weston, H. Spencer (Medallion), J. Knight, J. A. Weston, (Label), J. Reid.

**Coalville times - July 24th 1931**

**GRIFFYDAM EVENING INSTITUTE**
**SESSION 1930-31**

**St. John Ambulance Association examination successes.**
**Certificates:**
J. W. Bird, A. C. Monk, S. Palmer, A. Springthorpe, L. G. Townsend.
**Vouchers:** T. A. Francis, G. Kilby, H. Spencer, A. Weston.
**Medallion:** James Weston.
**Label:** John Weston.
**Pitman's Shorthand Elementary Certificate:** L. Leech, V. Marshall, W. E. Gould, R. L. Williamson.
**East Midland Education Union Examination:**
**Typewriting:** Doris W. Foster (1st class)
**Intermediate:** Louisa Leech (2nd class)
**Commercial Arithmetic:** Rose Walker (first class), Eric Cussworth (2nd class), George Winston Fowkes (2nd class), Vera Marshall (2nd class).

Prizes (value 10/- each) have been awarded by the District Committee, as follows:
**Commercial Course:** Vera Marshall
**Basketry and Cane-work:** Hilda Stewart
**Woodwork:** Divided between T. Francis and L. G. Townsend
**Ambulance:** John Weston

**Coalville Times - 25th July 1931**

# GRIFFYDAM
## EXAM. RESULTS

Students of the Griffydam Evening Institute in examinations of the last session's work have obtained the following successes:-

**St. John Ambulance certificates:**
J. W. Bird, A. C. Monk, S. Palmer, A. Springthorpe and S. G. Townsend.

**Pitman's Shorthand elementary certificates:**
L. Leech, V. Marshall, W. L. Gould, and R. L. Williamson.

**East Midland Educational Exams.**
**Typewriting:**
Doris W. Foster (1st class), Louisa Leech and George Winston Fowkes (2nd class).

**Commercial arithmetic:**
Rose Walker (1st class), Eric Cussworth, George W. Fowkes and Vera Marshall (2nd class).

**Prizes value 10s. each, have been awarded by the District Committee as follows:**
Commercial Course, Vera Marshall.
Basketry and Canework, Hilda Stewart.
Woodwork, divided between T. Francis and L. G. Townsend.
Ambulance, John Weston.

**Coalville Times - Feb 4th 1938**

## Griffydam Evening Institute

## Presentation Of Certificates

The annual social evening of the Griffydam Evening Institute was held on Saturday last, when about 140 young people were present. An excellent programme had been arranged by the local committee, entertainment being provided by a comedy and dance artist and a conjurer.
Mr. J. Reid, vice-chairman of the committee, was in the chair, and prizes and certificates for the past session were presented by Mr. W. Tapp, J.P. Mr. M. H. Haddock, having been unfortunately delayed for a time through car trouble.

The following examination successes were reported:

**St. John Ambulance Association:**

- First Aid Certificate: Leslie Reid, William Lovoday.
- Voucher: Joseph Mee, Claude Taylor, Clifford Lacey.
- Medallion: Thomas Reid, John Lacey.
- Label (2nd re-award): Kenneth Hodges.

The social concluded on a lively note with games, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

**Coalville Times - Fri Oct 8th 1948**

## Thirty Years A Headmaster

### MR. ELCOCK RETIRES

Headmaster of Griffydam County School for the past 22 years, Mr. E. E. Elcock retired on Thursday last.

Prior to his appointment at Griffydam, he was for 8 years Headmaster of Worthington C. of E. School.

He has for many years been Head of the Griffydam Evening Institute, and at Osgathorpe, where Mr. and Mrs. Elcock have resided, they have both shown a very keen and active interest in a number of parochial activities.

**Leicester Mercury - Feb 10th 1949**

**Griffydam Presentation.** On behalf of the staff and students of the Griffydam Evening Institute, Mrs. H. Platts, a member of the art needlework class, made a presentation to Mr. F. W. Tapp, who has been a teacher of the Institute for some years, and who was recently appointed headmaster of the Littleover Secondary Modern School, Derbyshire. Mr. M. H. Haddock, Principal of the Coalville Mining College, presented certificates to a number of students.

**Coalville Times - 6th March 1953**

# GRIFFYDAM

**Evening Classes Social.** There was an attendance of over 70 at Friday evening's annual social held by the students of Griffydam Evening Institute. Mr. H. W. K. Smith and Miss Chapman officiated as M.C.'s, and there was a good programme of dances and games, and a film display. Mr. R. Hull, Chairman of Managers, proposed a vote of thanks to the organisers.

**Coalville Times - Sept 24th 1954**

## Public Notices

**LEICESTERSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
**GRIFFYDAM EVENING INSTITUTE**
**Session 1964-65**
**OPENING CLASSES Week commencing MONDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1964**
**Places and Days of Meeting**

**MONDAY:**
Art Needlework (Griffydam School).
Women's Recreative.
Physical Training and Dancing (Griffydam School).
Weaving (Worthington C. of E. School).
**TUESDAY:**
Shorthand/Typing Course (Griffydam School). May be changed to Monday.
Woodwork (Griffydam School).
Dressmaking and Tailoring (Griffydam School).
Art Needlework (Worthington C. of E. School).
*(Art Needlework classes will not meet on the first Tuesday of each month).*
**WEDNESDAY:**
Woodwork (Griffydam School).
**THURSDAY:**
Shorthand/Typing Course (Griffydam School).
Art Needlework (Swannington C. of E. School).

**STUDENTS MAY ENROL ON JOINING THEIR CLASSES**
**Stewart C. Mason, M.A.**
*Director of Education*

**Coalville Times - Apr 15th 1955**

## Successful Students

Commercial students at Griffydam Evening Institute who gained certificates in the 1954 Session were:
**Typewriting:** Elementary: Miss R. Bloor, Miss J. Ford, Miss P. Grudgings, Miss H. Perry; Intermediate: Miss V. Chapman, Miss M. Statham; Business: Miss G. Tivey.
**Shorthand:** 60 w.p.m.: Miss M. Statham, 80 w.p.m.: Miss G. Tivey.

**Coalville Times - May 27th 1955**

## London Visit

Members of the art needlework classes of **Griffydam Evening Institute** and friends, on Saturday, visited the **National Embroiderers Guild exhibition** in London. Later, the party went on a sightseeing tour, including a visit to **Hampton Court Palace**.

**Coalville Times - Dec 28th 1956**

## Succeed In Their Examinations

Examination successes at Griffydam Evening Institute for the 1955-56 session have now been announced.

Certificates were awarded to the successful candidates as follows:

**PITMAN'S TYPEWRITING**

**Elementary:**
Jean Cadle, Joyce Shaw, Barbara Baker, Maureen Hindles, Enid Ward, Barbara James, Patricia Moore, Jean Adkin, Gillian Barkby.

**Intermediate:**
Rita Bloor, Hazel Burton, Patricia Grudgings, Barbara James.

**Business Stage:**
Marilyn Statham, Rita Bloor, Gwendoline Wright, Barbara James.

**PITMAN'S SHORTHAND**

**60 words per minute:** Rita Bloore.
**70 words per minute:** Rita Bloore.
**100 words per minute:** Gwendoline Wright.

**Coalville times - 14th June 1957**

## EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Typewriting and shorthand examination successes at the Griffydam Evening Institute for the 1956-57 session were:
**Pitman's (elementary) typewriting:** Wendy Weston and Veronica White.
**Pitman's (intermediate) typewriting:** Marlene Wardle and Wendy Weston.
**Pitman's (advanced) typewriting:** Gillian King.
**Pitman's shorthand certificates (60 w.p.m.):** Gillian King and Marlene Wardle.

**Coalville Times - 20th Sept 1957**

# Evening Institute

**SESSION 1957-58**
to be held at the following schools:

**COUNTY SCHOOL, GRIFFYDAM**
**TUESDAY:** WOODWORK, SHORTHAND and TYPEWRITING, ART NEEDLEWORK.
**WEDNESDAY:** WOODWORK, SHORTHAND and TYPEWRITING.

**C.E. SCHOOL, NEWBOLD**
**MONDAY:** ART NEEDLEWORK.
**TUESDAY:** DRESSMAKING.

**C.E. SCHOOL, SWANNINGTON**
**WEDNESDAY:** DRESSMAKING.
**THURSDAY:** ART NEEDLEWORK.

**Classes start week commencing**
**Monday, 23rd September, 1957**
*(Students may enrol at class meetings)*

**Coalville Times - Aug 14th 1959**

## GRIFFYDAM EVENING INSTITUTE
**Session 1959-60**

**DRESSMAKING TEACHER** required on two evenings per week.

For further particulars apply to
**H. W. K. SMITH**,
Responsible Teacher,
Mount Croft,
Station Hill,
Swannington.