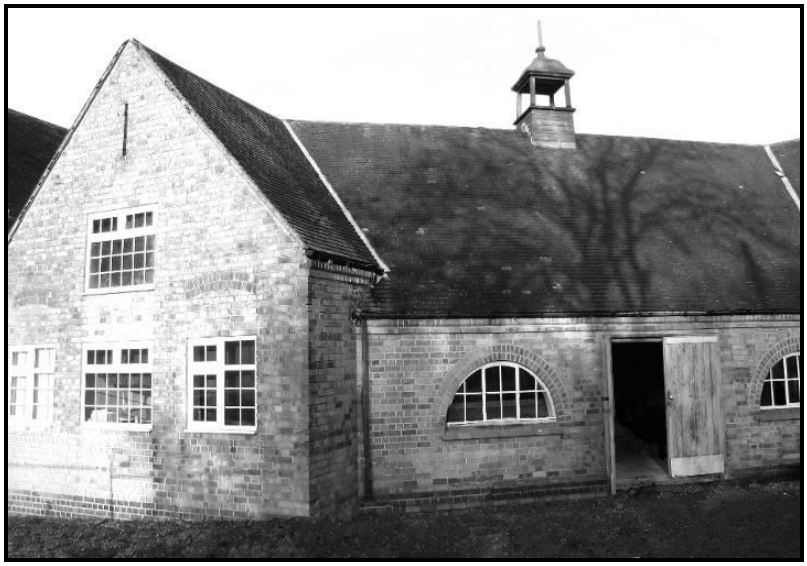
A HISTORY OF GRIFFYDAM SENIOR AND INFANT SCHOOLS





BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MAY 2021
Updated - May 2024 / Nov 2024 / NOV 2026

PREFACE

For such a small village, Griffydam has a remarkable history of providing educational facilities for the local area in the form of 3 schools. This particular publication relates to the second and third schools built, the first being the "Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School" which was actually located in Pegg's Green as was the senior school. A separate publication on the history of this school entitled "Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School (1853 - c.1921)" is free to download and read on the author's website www.samueltstewart.com

The author attended both schools that this publication is dedicated to from the age of four in 1946, and after having passed the 11+ examination at the senior school in 1953 moved to Ashby de la Zouch, Boys Grammar School.

COMPLIMENTARY READING

Authors website address - samueltstewart.com

All under subsection 'Education'

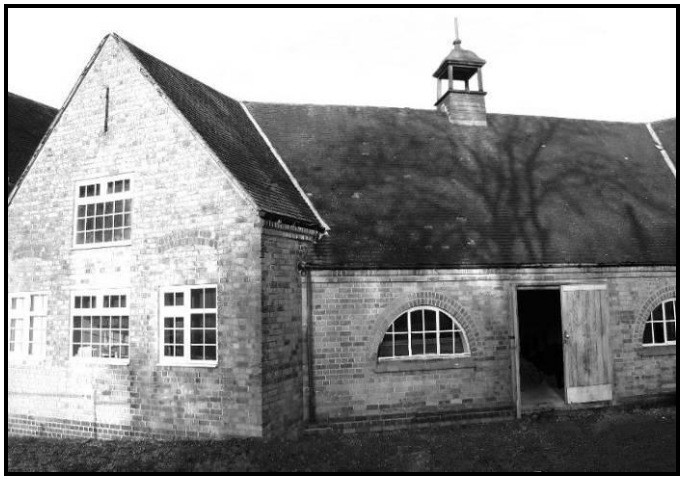
- **Headmaster E.E. Elcock and his family Family**
- **Griffydam Wesleyan Day School 1853 - 1921**
- **Big changes in Coalville schooling- Griffydam houses Coalville Junior grammar school from Sept 1954**

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GRIFFYDAM SENIOR SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE HILL, PEGGS GREEN – OPENED EARLY 1915

(Used as both an elementary, junior, senior school, Junior Grammar School and Evening Adult School during its lifetime)



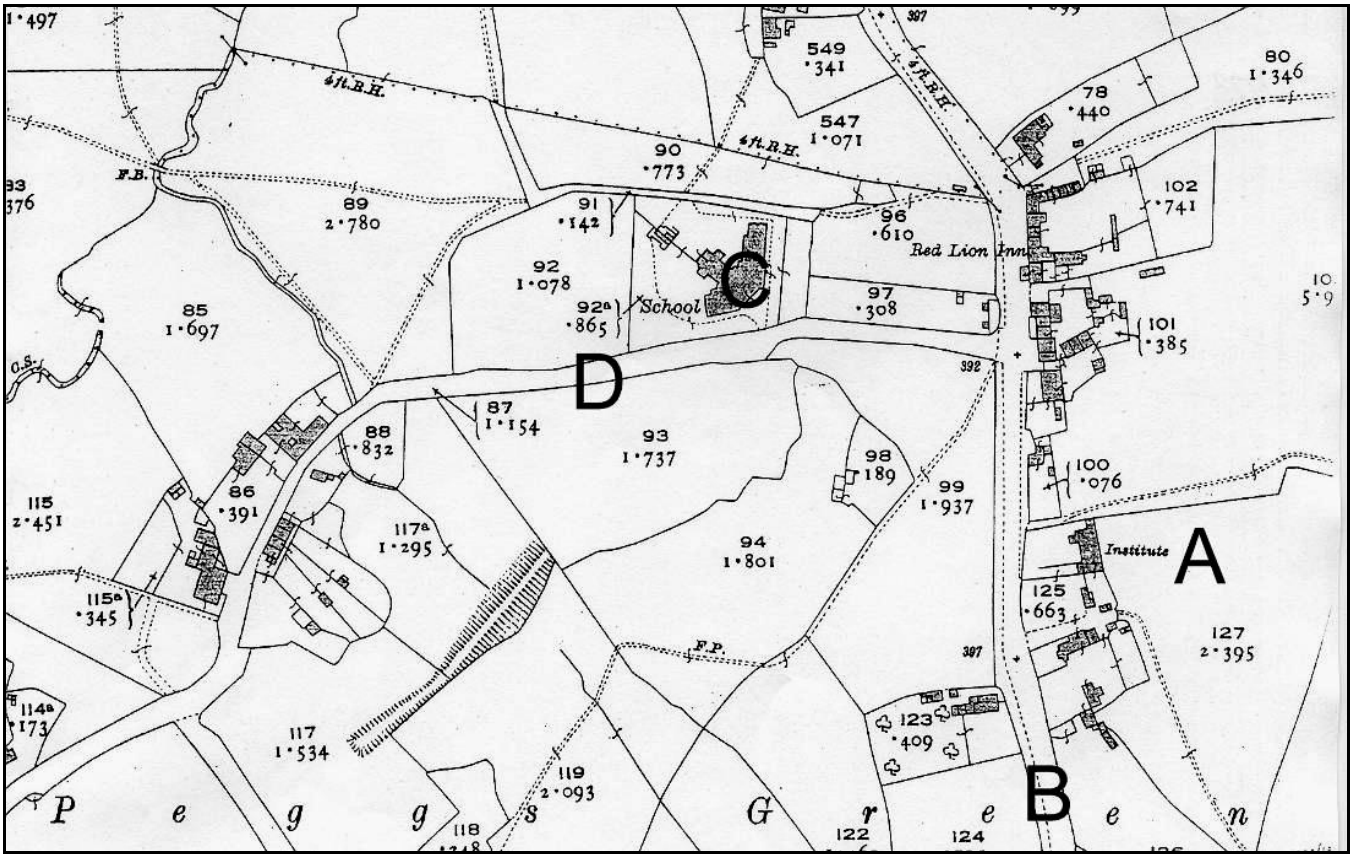




Photographs of Griffydam Senior School
taken just prior to it being converted into a private residence



A view of the school from Nottingham Road



Extract from 1923 O/S map

A - The former "Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day and Sabbath School"1853-1921
It was described as an 'Adult School' because for a few years prior to its closure, it was used for this purpose following which the Adult Evening School facilities were moved to Griffydam Senior School on School lane hill Pegg's Green.

B - Nottingam Road (Griffydam Top Road)

C - Griffydam senior school, opned c.1915.

D - School Lane

The new Griffydam School, shown on the map above marked **C**, was built on what is now School Lane Hill, Peggs Green and is thought to have opened in 1915.

The first Headmaster appointed was Mr. J. V. Measures of Thurmaston as recorded in the Leicester Evening Mail dated 12th January 1915. He had previously been described as a support teacher in a school at Thurmaston. John Victor Measures moved from Griffydam School to become the headmaster of the showpiece Ibstock Secondary Modern School when it opened in 1925. He apparently became a much loved force in Leicestershire education and was also a County Councillor. He was sadly killed in a car accident following his retirement after returning from an England v Australia cricket match at Trent Bridge.





LH side - Mr. John Victor Measures, Griffydam senior school's first headmaster 1915 - 1925
Photograph taken in 1940s. Copyright owned by originator.

RH side - Ernest Edwin Elcock, Griffydam Senior School's second headmaster, 1926-1956
Photograph taken aged 44

COALVILLE JUNIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In 1954, the Griffydam senior school became a Junior Grammar School as part of Coalville Grammar School, with students being bused in from outlying districts. A few years ago it was sold and subsequently converted into a private residence.

TWO FORMER PUPILS

Margaret Barkby, born and bred in Coleorton, first attended this school in 1923/4 at the age of 5, before moving to Broom Leys School at the age of 14. The headmaster at that time was Mr. E. E. Elcock, known as Daddy Elcock who, with his family, resided in *"The Harley grammar School House" at Osgathorpe.* Mr. Kirk was the woodwork master, and other

teachers were Mr. Danvers, Miss Florrie Johnson, Miss Starbuck and Miss Morley.

Len Benson, who was a former resident of The Woolrooms, Coleorton, attended the new school on the hill from 1927 to 1936. He recalled that he also attended the old Wesleyan Day School **A** for a short time at the beginning of his school life, which was used at that time as an overflow school for the new Griffydam senior school on the hill.

Len recalled the following teacher's names - Headmaster Daddy Elcock, Avro Harrison (also took PE), Miss Merrishaw (see pupil photograph of Griffydam Infant School), John Burden, Miss Johnson (see pupil photograph for Griffydam Infant School), Ms. Mitchell (lived in Griffydam), Ms. Watson (lived near Kidger's Butchers), Mr. Clark (also known as "Bulldog Clark"), and said to be ex-navy.



● Mr Ben Wilton, of Martinshaw Close, Groby, has sent in this old photograph of Griffydam School taken in 1928.

They are (from left, back row): T Reed, B Bird, Abbott, S Warrington, J Wilton, T Morley and H Fern.

Front row: B Wilson, H Leeson, D Robinson, M Pepper, F Else and E Mason.

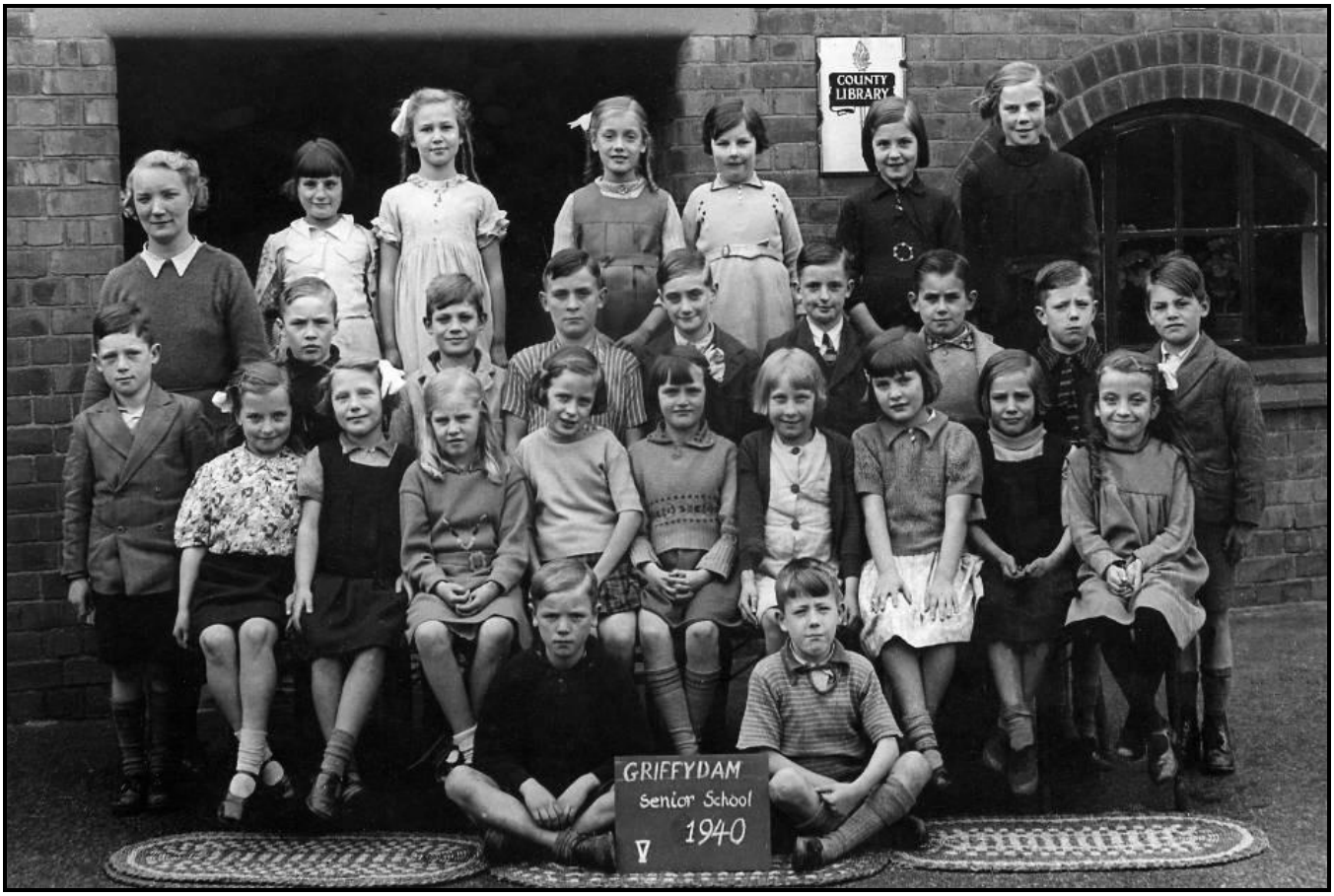


Football Team 1928/29 season – Mr. Elcock (headmaster) is on the RH side



● Can any of our readers identify the faces on this class of 1940 at Griffydam Senior School, taken in 1940? Spruced up for the photographer, every lad except the big fellow on the right has apparently dipped into his dad's Brylcreem and, apart from one, they all wear jackets. And nine out of the 14 girls wear that adolescent passion-killer, the gymslip.

Photograph from The Coalville Times 19.1.96



Class V 1940

Photographs were taken during the 2nd W.W. - Note the named Evacuees in the bottom one.

Cont'd over page

1st Row Left to Right

Eric King, Gordon Clemence

2nd Row Left to Right

Mary Toone, Margaret Sanderson, Mary Kilby, Thelma Bath, ?? , May Moorhouse, Jose King, Hetti Hall (Anchor Lane), Connie Rowell (Olga Terrace)

3rd Row Left to Right

Alan Williamson (Tentas), Roy Harrison, **Henry Wells (Evacuee),** Eric Rowell, Herbert Hodges, Lesley Webster, **Walter Sibbets (Evacuee)**, Roy Clemence, **Dennis Thursford (Evacuee, brother to June Thursford)**

Top Row Left to Right

Frances Harris (Teacher), **June Thursford (Evacuee),** Lorna Ashbridge (Olga Terrace), Daphe Hull, **Greta Stewart (sister of the writer),** ?? , Edna Hodges

SUMMARY OF THE LOG BOOK OF GRIFFYDAM SENIOR SCHOOL DURING THE PERIOD 1939-1948

(key social events only are identified)

THE 1918 AND 1936 EDUCATION ACTS

The 1918 Education act rationalised free education for all children and included both educational as well as medical provision. This is demonstrated in the Log book, regular visits are made by the school nurse, oculist, dentist and local doctors. It also requires the Local Educational Authority LEA to provide and supervise a range of the schools. Managers acted in a similar role to todays Governors.

The 1918 Act raised the school leaving age from 12 to 14 and made provision for a system of part-time 'continuation day' classes for those in work aged 14-18. It abolished all fees in state elementary schools and widened the provision of medical inspection, nursery schools, and special needs education.

The greater part of the financial burden of education - some 60 per cent - was transferred from the local authorities to central government. This was partly to foster a greater sense of professionalism among teachers by allowing them improved salaries and pensions.

However, many of these innovative changes could only be implemented in part, or not at all, due to cuts in public expenditure forced by the economic depression of the 1920s.

The 1936 Education act raised the school leaving age to 15, but empowered LEAs to issue employment certificates to allow 14 year olds to work rather than attend school in certain circumstances - for example, where a family would suffer 'exceptional hardship' if the child did not work

The Log Book is covered by “article 23” which states that "Every School must have a Diary or Log Book which should be a bare record of the events which constitute the history of the school. The log book was signed by the school manager who was Mr C. H. Pickering until his death on 22/5/1943 when it continued to be signed by Roland Hull. The headmaster during the period covered was Mr E.E. Elcock, who after retirement continued to live in the Harley Grammar School house in Osgathorpe where he had lived during the period covered. He also played the Church Organ *and was known by the children as Daddy Elcock.*

The reader should bear in mind that the following records are from the period during the 1939 – 1945 2nd World War.

Cont'd over page

1939

16 – Feb	**Log book begins**
7-17 April	Easter holidays. Outside toilets were lime washed. *These privy's had galvanized pans under wooden seats with holes in them that were emptied fortnightly by the council. The school had indoor flushing toilets 26th Sept* 1964.
18-Apr	1 hour’s art and craftwork introduced for each class. Recommendation from HM Inspector.
4-May	School collected 140 eggs for Loughborough Hospital. NHS did not commence until Feb 1948. Hospitals were supported by local collections.
11-May	Head advised that in the event of war, 100 senior girls would be allocated to the school from Birmingham.
19-May	L.E.A. visited to make arrangements to feed evacuees.
24-May	Empire day holiday
21-Jun	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink". *This was a temperance organisation formed in response to*

	excessive drinking in the 1800's. From 1909 onwards the school syllabus included education on alcohol and its related problems etc. Originally, this included the promotion of 'temperance'. The misuse of alcohol was thought to relate to the misuse of food. The educational approach today relates it to the misuse of drugs.
5-Jul	Schools Sports, the last until after the war
28-Jul	Last day of Term.
29-Aug	First day of new term.
1-Sep	School closed for the reception of 57 children evacuated from Birmingham and accompanied by the Head Mistress and two assistants. The number of evacuees changing throughout the war, with some children returning to parents.
4-Sep	War declared on Germany. School closed until further notice.
11-Sep	School reopens.
3-Oct	School numbers increase from 166 to 221 due to influx of evacuees.
17-22 Oct	Holiday, but evacuees attend school.
12-Dec	Birmingham teachers take Christmas holidays in rota, to ensure supervision of evacuees during Christmas.
19-Dec	Dr Murray sees undernourished children. Unemployment as a result of the Great depression was still high at the beginning of the war and the conversion of manufacturing to a war footing was not immediate.
1940	
15-Jan	Boy injured finger, taken to Dr Garry at Osgathorpe. National Health system did not begin until 1948. At this time Doctors were private and would carry out minor surgery and dispensing.
29-Jan	3 to 4 feet (0.9-1.2m) of Snow made road impassable, 10 children arrived soaked and sent home. 2 hours to walk from Osgathorpe
31-Jan	Teacher conscripted into the Army From the outbreak of war. Men from 18 to 41 were conscripted for military service. In 1942, women between 20 to 30 and men from 18 to 51 were conscripted. There were exemptions e.g. married women, miners, vital war work.
12-Feb	Roads still bad but full attendance
17-Feb	6" (150mm) snow fell
10-Apr	11+ examinations Pupils who passed could go to Grammar School if families could afford the cost of uniforms etc. otherwise the children would remain until leaving age
23-Apr	13 cases of measles all from Thringstone reported to Schools Medical Officer. A highly contagious infection, complications occur in about 30% include diarrheal, blindness, inflammation of the brain, and pneumonia. There were no vaccinations or antibiotics to treat complications
23-Apr	136 eggs collected for Loughborough Hospital. January 1940 butter and sugar were rationed. Eggs were rationed in Jun 1942 when dried eggs became available on ration.
10-May	School closed until 21st May
14-May	School opens as a result of Government wireless announcement**.** Radio was being increasingly used by the government to make announcements
24-May	Empire day holiday
21-Jun	County Handicraft Teachers transferred to Armament Production
21-Jun to 8-Jul	Midsummer Holiday introduced Holidays have been changed to enable children to help in haymaking
12-Jul	School garden inspected U-boat blockade made importing food difficult and a 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged everyone to grow more food.
6-Sep	Attendance better as less disturbance from air raid warnings Battle of Britain Jul 10 to 31 Oct. During this period German Airforce carried out heavy daylight bombing raids. After this period bombing raids were at night. The children would have seen the horizon lit up on the 14th Nov. when Coventry one of the finest medieval cities in Europe was destroyed completely.

15-Nov	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink"
29-Nov	22 children evacuated from Birmingham
5-Dec	41 children evacuated from Birmingham It is likely the 1939 evacuees returned home and the commencement of heavy bombing in the 1940s necessitated the evacuation Air Raid children and teachers spent from 1-35 until 3-00 in air raid shelter
1941	
20-Jan	Heavy snow. No buses in the afternoon. All children had to walk home.
27-Jan	Roads better and buses came
25-Feb	Shrove Tuesday holiday in the afternoon
3-4 Apr	11+ exams
9-May	War Weapons week. Involved the whole community generating money for the war effort. EG National Saving certificate or knitting gloves for military.
26-May	Head discusses Fire Prevention Order 1941 Due to the Germans increasing use of incendiary bombs, Local Authorities required males between 18 and 60 to spend 48 hours a month as fire wardens.
4-Jul	School closed for Haymaking
26 Sep to 13th Oct	School closed for potato picking, some of the boys continued to do this for the rest of the month.
6-Nov	Diphtheria immunisation 2nd treatment.
13-Nov	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink"
17-Nov	School start at 9-30 until February.
12-Dec	Two prizes and 33 certificates awarded by band of hope for essays.
16-Dec	Supplementary clothing coupons given to 13 children.
1942	
20-Jan	Heavy snow, 76 local children attend.
23-Jan	More snow, less than 50% attend.
4-Feb	96 children attend due to snow.
17-Feb	Shrove Tuesday holiday in the afternoon
26-27 Mar	11+ exams **-** A.S. Exam
20-Apr	Head attend meeting on the employment of children in Agriculture.
20-Apr	Signs of subsidence have appeared on western side of the building.
1-May	Representative of New Lount Colliery Co inspect school buildings.
15-May	11+ oral exam.
11-Jun	School medical officer examines leavers and carries out a nutritions survey.
29-Sep	Head attend meeting on the employment of children in potato harvest in October.
2-Oct	School closes for 3 weeks **-** Presumably to pick potatoes.
23-Nov	School start at 9-30 until February.
24-Nov	Lists of 181 children and 6 Teachers sent to ARP warden.
1943	
10-Mar	Representative of New Lount Colliery Co inspect school buildings.
17-Mar	Joiner from New Lount Colliery Co attends to 5 doors.
1-2 Apr	11+
14-May	Book drive brings in 473 books and 459 magazines.
18-May	11+ oral exam.
10-Sep	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink".
15-Nov	School start at 9-30 until February.
15-Nov	Extra Clothing coupons requests for 43 pupils.
28-29 Nov	Heavy Snow - no buses or milk.
1944	
2-3 Mar	11 +
21-Mar	Head attends meeting on "Salvage Drive".

1-May	11+ oral exam.
24-May	Head attends meeting on Board Education Circular 1654 supply of teachers and transference of pupils to Secondary Schools at 13.
14-Jun	Diphtheria immunisation .
21-Jun	Book drive brings in 346 books.
26-Jul	School Sports held on Games Field first time since 1939.
17-Nov	4 weeks with only 3 teachers'. Older boys sent on farm work
20-Nov	Extra Clothing coupons requests for 47 pupils.
25-Nov	Last Evacuees return to Birmingham.
27-Nov	Boiler broken as class temperatures are 4 °C. Children sent home .
15-Dec	Boiler fully repaired.
1945	
18-Jan	Lecture by the National Council for Animals' welfare.
26-30 Jan	Snow and frosts -4 °C.
1-2 Mar	11+
2-May	11+ oral exam.
8-9 May	**End of War in Europe 2 days holiday.**
5-Jul	Parlamentary Election. Head is Presiding Officer. Held at Griffydam Primary School "this school not being used as previously"
16-23 Jul	Midland Red bus drivers on strike, children have to walk to school.
24-Sep	**V.E. Day holiday**
28-Sep	Many children permitted to go potato picking for 2 weeks weather good.
19-Oct	Still dry. Rain water storage emptied and sedement removed.
29-Oct	Heavy Rain penetrates through roof.
9-Nov	Band of Hope Union gives senior children a lesson on "The Hygiene of Food and Drink".
4-Dec	Extra Clothing coupons requests for 60 pupils.
1946	
9-Jan	Workmen doing repairs.
21-23 Jan	Snow and frosts.
7-8 Mar	11+
15-Mar	Only 4 children been immunised against Diptheria. 3 parents refused.
7-May	Woodwork commences on Mr Lawson's release from War work for 5 years.
7-May	11+ oral exam
15-Jul	Children go to Miners Institute to see a film called Safety First.
10-Oct	240 bread units were issued to children who spend week potato picking.
15-Oct	New Boiler fitted, heating for the first time since spring.
6-Nov	264 bread unit were issued to children who spend week potato picking W/E 18 Oct.
1947	
27-Jan	Snow, 78 children present.
28-Jan	More snow, 79 children present.
29-Jan	More snow and frost. 69 children present. Buses late. At 10am -9 °C. Milk delivered at 3pm and bottle frozen solid.
4-Feb	More snow and frost, 46 children present, buses late.
7-Feb	Exceptionally cold school kept comfortably warm. No milk for a week.
10-Feb	More snow 1.5m to 1.8m drifts Rempstone road blocked.
12-Feb	Rempstone Rd drifts cleared to allow one way traffic. Bus gets through from Osgathorpe.
19-Feb	First milk delivery since the 3rd. Road travel no better.
5-6th Mar	Greatest blizzard in living memory. Roads have been covered in snow and ice for six weeks. Drifts 2 to 2.5 m deep.
7-Mar	Friday, few local children that arrived sent home.
11-Mar	The Miners Institute is considered to see if is a suitable place for mid-day meals. But no cooking facilities or water supply.
6-7 Mar	11+ postponed bad weather.
13-14 Mar	11+ exams.
26-Mar	Head attends meeting regarding potato picking.

25-Apr	Subsidence damage to Floors inspected.
2-May	11+ oral exam.
14-May	Fireguards measured for Domestic science room.
4-Jun	Meeting to move senior children to Broom Leys.
30-Jul	Woodwork benches sent to Ashby Grammar school.
10-Sep	Senior pupils transferred to Broom Leys and Hugglescote Sec Modern Schools. 44 Juniors taught by Head and Miss A King.
20-Nov	Holiday, for marriage of Princess Elizabeth.
26-Apr	Holiday, Silver Wedding King and Queen.
30-Sep	**Mr. E. E. Elcock retires after 22 year.**

TEACHER RECORDS FROM LOG BOOK

Miss Gwendolene G Hull	Headmistress of Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham To establish the 57 children evacuated	26 Sept 1939 returned 2 October	
Teachers before 26th September 1939			Role
Mr E E Elcock	Headmaster	3rd Year Senior Mixed	29
Mr Douglas W Preston		2nd Year Senior Mixed	31
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden		1st Year Senior Mixed	41
Miss Barbara M Armson		St IV & V Juniors Mixed	35
Miss Frances Harris		St II & III Juniors Mixed	30
Mr Lawson	Handicraft		
Miss M Harris	Domestic Science	Arrived 4 Sept 1939	
			166
Teachers at 3rd October 1939			
Mr E E Elcock	Headmaster	3rd Year Senior Mixed & Gardening	39
Miss Catherine Lloyd ##	Transferrred from Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham 26 Sept 1939	3rd Year Senior Mixed	40
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden	previously 1st year	3rd Year Senior Mixed	36
Mr Douglas W Preston		2nd Year Senior Mixed	25
Miss Anne Clucas ##	Transferrred from Vicarage Rd Senior Girls School Birmingham 26 Sept 1939	1st & 2nd Year Senior Mixed, backward Children	
Miss Barbara M Armson		St IV & V Juniors Mixed	41
Miss Frances Harris	Becomes Mrs Stapleton 2 Jan 1944	St II & III Juniors Mixed	40
Mr Lawson	Handicraft	Transferred for armament work to Loughborough College returned 7 May 1946	
Miss M Harris	Domestic Science		
			221
## Teachers from Birmingham change regularly		Difference	55
Miss Winchurch	6 Feb 1940 Teacher transferred from Birmingham	2nd Aug	
Mr Rowell	6 Feb 1940 Teacher		
Miss Barbara M Armson	Becomes head at Newtown Linford	7 Jan 1941	
Miss E Clifford	Teacher	Started 21 July 1941 left 22 Apr 1943 for school in Harrow	

Miss Audrey Alison King	Student Teacher	Started 1 Sept 1941	
Miss Elizabeth K Lumsden	Teacher	Left 19 Dec1941 for Fifeshire	
Miss Waldron	No record of Miss Harris leaving	Left for S Charnwood 30 Jul 1943	
Miss G M Williams	Domestic Science	Starts 16 Aug 1943 left 21 Jul 1944	
Mrs Stapleton		Left 29 Feb for Leicester	
Mrs Haywood		Left 16 Medical reasons 16 May 1944	
Miss J Hawkins	Domestic Science	Started 4 Sep 1944 Left 30 Jul 1945 for Portsmouth	
Miss M Griffiths	Domestic Science	Started 14 Sep 1945 left 29 July 1946	
Miss King		Name appears in 1945	
Miss Foster		Name appears in 1945	
1 st October 1948 School becomes Infants & Junior			
Miss Kitty Wright	Headmistress	Class I	26
Miss A King		Class II	24
Miss K J Johnson		Class III	24
			74

GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL 1936 -

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE BUILDING OF A NEW INFANT SCHOOL AT GRIFFYDAM

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail – December 29th 1934

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GRIFFYDAM PRIMARY COUNCIL SCHOOL

The committee invites TENDERS for the erection of the Griffydam Primary Council School to accommodate 100 children

Quantities may be obtained from the Architect, County Education Office, Grey Friars, Leicester, on Wednesday, the 2nd of January, 1935, upon payment of a deposit of two guineas. This amount will be returnable only if the Tenderer shall have sent in a bona-fide Tender and shall not have withdrawn the same. Conditions of Contract may be inspected at the Architect's office.

Tenders on the forms supplied, must reach the Office of the Clerk of the Council not later than first post on Saturday, the 12th of January 1935. No Tender will be received except in the plain sealed envelope provided. Such envelopes shall not bear any mark or name indicating the sender.

The successful contractor will be required to enter into a bond with an approved guarantee company in a sum amounting to 20% of the total amount of the contract.

The committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

LUCAS E. RUMSEY
Clerk of the Council

10, New Street, Leicester
December 22nd 1934. C.12.29.

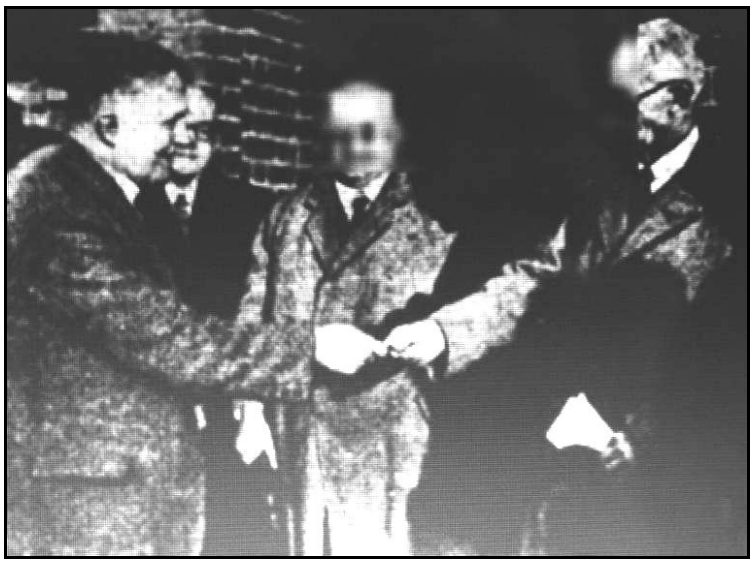
CONTRACT AWARDED TO

A. B. MOSS BUILDERS

The general contractors for the work were Messrs Walter Moss and Sons, of Coalville, and the principal Sub-Contractors included: Messrs. W. O. and C. V. Knighton, Coalville (electric lighting, etc.), Messrs. C. March and Son, Coalville (plumbing and painting), and G. S. Taylor, Hugglescote (tiling).

THE OPENING CEREMONY – November 2nd 1936

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail – November 3rd 1936



CAPTAIN E. G. FOWLER, the architect, presenting the keys to Lieu Colonel R. E. Martin, who opened the new infant school at Griffydam, near Coalville, yesterday.

GRIFFYDAM'S NEW SCHOOL OPENED

*****

COLONEL MARTIN ON COST OF EDUCTION

****

The great advance made in elementary education during the last 30 years was commented upon by Mr. W. A. Brockington, County Director, in a speech at the opening of the new infants' school at Griffydam yesterday.

He said the infants' school should be on the model of a good home nursery. The most striking development was in the improvement in the education of the infants.

Referring to the friendliness between teachers and parents, he said the change was largely due to the bond of between them.

PRESENTED WITH KEY

Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Martin, chairman of the Leicestershire Education Committee, unlocked the door of the school with a key presented to him by Captain E. G. Fowler, the architect. He said he had pleasure in declaring the school open. Mr. C. H. Pickering presided at a meeting held in the school

Colonel Martin said that since 1917, a scheme of reorganization in education had been going on in Leicestershire, and was now further advanced than in any other part of the country.

It was the intention of the Education Committee to extend to all children the advantages which the children of people with larger incomes had had at their disposal for so long. Ninety per cent. Of the older children in Leicestershire were attending modern schools.

LOW COST

The cost per head of education in Leicestershire was still substantially below the average for England as a whole. Thanks were accorded to Colonel Martin, on the motion of Alderman J. A. Goodman, seconded by Mr. R. Hall, and thanks to the chairman were moved by Alderman J. W. West, seconded by Mr. H. Johnson.

Among those supporting the chairman on the platform in addition to Colonel Martin and Mr. Brockington :-

Mrs. Charles Booth, Gracedieu: Mrs. J. German, Ashby; the Archdeacon of Loughborough, the Rev. H. R. Canham, vicar of Worthington; Alderman J. W. West, Alderman J. A. Goodman, Alderman E. W. Tandy, Councillors W. Tapp, C. H. Parsons, J. G. Shields, Mr. T. Frith, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. R. Hull, Captain Fowler, and Mr. R. H. Holt.

Others present included Messrs. C. F. Fox, J. M. Kidger, members of Ashby Rural Council; W. Smith, Worthington; J. Biddle, J. H. Webb, Thringstone; A. B. Moss, the contractor: C. V. Knighton, S. Elcock, headmaster of Griffydam Senior School; Miss Merishaw, head mistress of the new school; and Mr. H. S. Johnson.

The school had been built to accommodate 100 children, with the possibility of doubling the accommodation if required in future years.

Alternative report Transcribed from the Coalville Times - 6th Nov 1936

OPENING CEREMONY AND SPEECHES

THE great advance made in elementary education during the last thirty years was commented upon by Mr. W. A. Brockington, County Director, in a speech at the opening of the new infant school at Griffydam, on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Brockington said it was a beautiful and edifying experience in these days to visit a good infant school. When he contrasted the conditions of thirty years ago with to-day, he realised that they had advanced a great deal. It was just as important that they should have beautiful schools and beautiful conditions for their little children as they should have well-equipped universities. How important it was, too, that children should be looked after by doctors and nurses, as well as by teachers. Nearly all the ills that the flesh is heir to were traceable to early neglect. The infant school should be on the model of a good home nursery, where the children formed their own little happy families and began to learn art of living together and there it ..

- **Reflections on Education:** Mr. Brockington observed how play and work blend together in modern education, noting that the most significant advancement over his 30 years in the field was the improvement in infant education. He highlighted the growing warmth and cooperation between parents and teachers, remarking lightheartedly that school attendance officers were almost out of work. He added that Shakespeare's famous lines in *As You Like It* about the reluctant schoolboy dragging his feet no longer fit the modern attitude toward school.
- **Official Opening Ceremony:** Col. R. E. Martin, chairman of the Leicestershire Education Committee, officially unlocked the school door using a ceremonial key presented by the architect, Capt. E. G. Fowler.He said he had pleasure in declaring the school open and prayed that God's blessing would rest on those who teach and on those who learn within its walls.

Mr. C. H. Pickering, C.C., presided at the meeting in the school and among those supporting him on the platform, in addition to Col. Martin and Mr. Brockington were Mrs. Charles Booth (Gracedieu), Mrs. J. German (Ashby), the Archdeacon of Loughborough, the Rev. H. R. Canham (vicar of Worthington), Ald. J. A. Goodman, J.P., Ald. J. W. West, J.P, Ald. F. W.

Tandy, J.P., Councillors W Tapp, J.P., C. H. Parsons, J.P., J. G. Shields, J.P., Mr. T. Frith, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. R. Hull, Capt. Fowler (architect) and Mr. R. H. Holt.

Others present included Mrs. C. H. Parsons, Mrs. T. Frith, Mrs. W. Tapp and Miss Tapp, Messrs. C. F. Fox, J. M. Kidger (member of the Ashby Rural District Coun- cil), W. Smith (Worthington), J. Biddle, J. H. Webb (Thringstone), A. B. Moss (the contractor), C. V. Knighton, S. Elcock (headmaster Griffyham senior school), Miss Merrishaw (head mistress of the new school) and Mr. H. S. Johnson.

The opening prayer was by Mr. W. Tapp (was a responsible teacher at the Griffydam Evening Adult School)

The chairman said such a school had been a long-felt need in the district. After all, the children in the rural areas were in the same world and entitled to the education which the committee provided for the larger areas. They recognised that Col. Martin was interested in the villages and they welcomed him to Griffydam.

COL. MARTIN'S ADDRESS.

Col. Martin said that although Leicestershire was not as big as some counties, there was plenty of room in it and that was the first time he had had the pleasure of spending any appreciable time in the district of Griffydam, so the occasion would be a memorable one to him.

The County Council had not had to build many schools purely for infants, and though the building was small, it included many of the features which were in modern schools for the older children. He thought Griffydam was very fortunate. The school was part of the educational system in Leicestershire. In the old days they used to think in terms of a separate, independent school for each village, but in recent years, they had changed their ideas in that respect.

He went on to explain that since 1917, a scheme of reorganisation in education had been going on in Leicestershire, and was now further advanced than in any other part of the country. It was the intention of the Education Committee to extend to all children the advantages which the children of people with larger incomes had had at their disposal so long. There were now 90 per cent of the older children in Leicestershire attending the modern schools.

It cost money, but it would not cost them as much as if they lived in another county, because most of the work had been done. The cost per head of education in Leicestershire was still substantially below the average of the counties of England as a whole.

THE OLD WESLEYAN SCHOOL

Moving a vote of thanks to Col. Martin, Ald. J. A. Goodman traced the history of education at Griffydam for the last hundred years and spoke of the excellent service rendered by the Old Wesleyan School.

Mr. R. Hull (one of the managers) seconded and the vote, heartily accorded, was acknowledged by Col. Martin.

Ald. J. W. West moved a similar vote to the chairman which was seconded by Mr. H. Johnson (a manager) and also accorded with acclamation.

The chairman having replied, the hymn, "Now thank we all our God," was sung and the proceedings closed with the Blessing, pronounced by the Rev. H. R. Canham, and the singing of the National Anthem.

During the proceedings, a hymn was also sung by the children.

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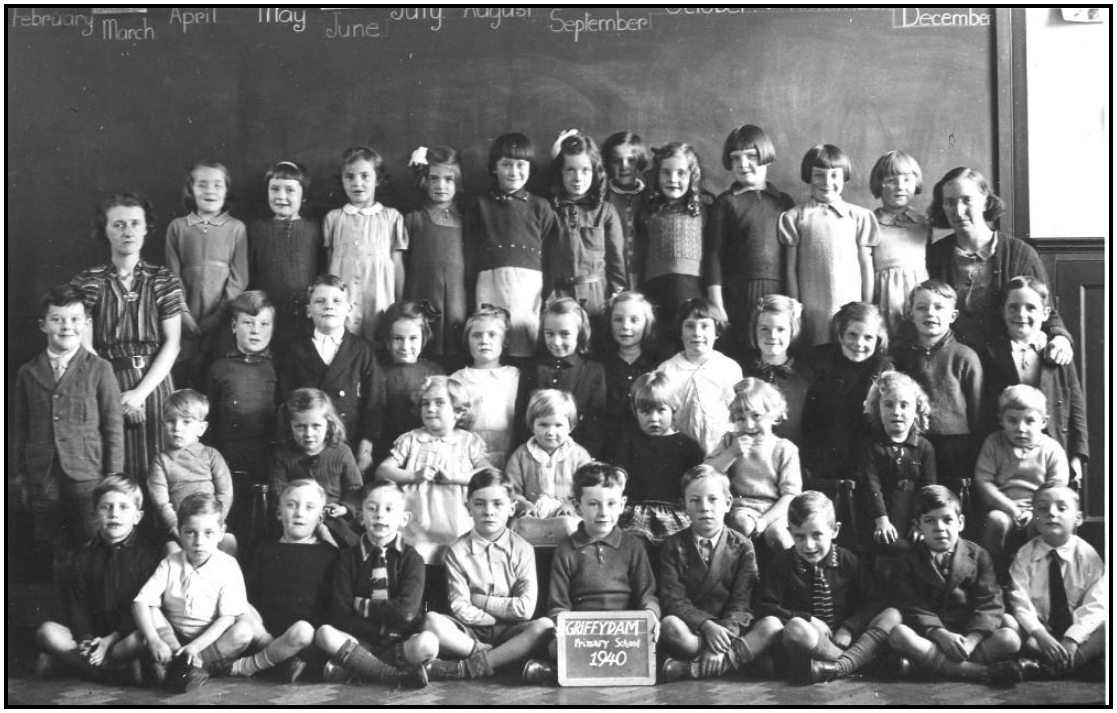


GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL 1982



GRIFFYDAM PRIMARY SCHOOL TODAY

Griffydam Infant School was built to take infant pupils who previously had to attend the senior school in School Lane, Peggs Green. From 1949, pupils around the age of seven moved down to the senior school on School Lane (which became a junior school) and remained there until taking the 11+ examination. In 1954 the school on School Lane became an overflow for Coalville Grammar School. This meant that this school on the Top Road became an infant / junior school, later to become a Primary School. Miss Johnson who lived in the White house on the south corner of the Tentas continued in her post as teacher there until she retired.



Front Row, Left to Right
Gerald Hall, Derek Darby, Colin Hodges, Brian Hubbard, Les Rowell, Kenneth Hill, Kay Bird, William Wilton, Keith Richards, ? McCewan
2nd Row Left to Right
Clifford Whyman, ?? , ? Hall, Betty Horne, ?? , ?? , ?? , Marjorie Collins, John Collins
3rd Row, Left to Right
Miss Florrie Johnson (Teacher), ? Smith (Evacuee), Stan Hodges, Pauline Hill, ?? , Brenda Leedham (Twin), Maureen Leedham (Twin), Betty Johnson, Marilyn Leeson, Stella Hodges, Harold Burton, Jackie Toone
Top Row Left to Right
Barbara Bradley, Nancy Bradford, June Pickering, Marlene Hodges, Joyce Marshall, Mirabelle King, ?, ?, Gwenda Bird, Rosemary Benson, Joyce Collins, **Miss Merishaw (Head Mistress)**

Photograph taken during 2nd W.W. - Note the Evacuee on the 3rd row



GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL 1948

Left to Right

Top: Colin Bradford, Barrie Moore, Billy Harrison, Douglas Shaw (Dougie), David Else, Brian Wardle, Raymond Whitworth, Ketzia (Kitty) Wright (Teacher)

Middle: John Wardle, Christine Allcoat, Dilys Davies, Jacqueline Ford, Jean Adkin, Anne Wilson, Mary Weston, Jennifer Hodges, Sylvia Wesley, Michael (Davis?)

Bottom: Doreen Freeman, Gillian Wright (Miss Wright's niece), Maureen Johnson, Sheila Williamson (now Fisher), Gillian Barkby, Thelma Watrel, Marilyn Statham, Bridgett Taylor



GRIFFYDAM INFANT SCHOOL 1949

Front - Left to Right

June Harrison, Coral Robinson, Marion Hodges, Patricia Holland, Marinda Johnson, ??, ??

Middle

Malcolm Pole, Clifford Marriott, Jennifer Worthington, Glenis Smith, Kenny Moore, Mavis Kilby, Marie Cook, Don Hubbard, Reggie Burton.

Top

Miss Florrie Johnson (Teacher), ??, Michael Chadwick, William Johnson, Lionel Westley, ??. Colin Lord, **Trevor Stewart (author of this publication)**



c.1956
SHEILA BANNISTER AND BROTHER HERBERT
From age 4 to 11 when they took the 11+ Exam they were educated at the infant school



c.1960
HERBERT BANNISTER



BOTTOM ROW
2nd from left - Ann Burton
SECOND ROW
1st from left - Paulette King
5th from left - Sheila Hodges ?
6th from left - Vanessa Wilton
3RD ROW
1st from left - Sue Dimmock
End of row - Brian Sharp
TOP ROW
2nd from left - Herbert Bannister
3rd from left - Stephen Haywood
4th from left - Robert Howkins
Far right - Teacher, Florrie Johnson

MISS FLORRIE JOHNSON RETIRES AFTER ALMOST HALF A CENTURY AT ONE SCHOOL

The following is a transcription of an article in the Coalville Times, December 1971.

Miss Johnson, an infant teacher at the Griffydam primary School, retires at the end of this term after almost 50 years teaching at the school. Miss Johnson (65) lives at Top Road, Griffydam. She started as a student teacher at the school in June 1921, and has taught there since apart from a two-year stint at Hathern School.

A collection in the village to buy her a retirement gift raised £81. 12 and at ceremony in the village's Methodist Room last week she received a painting, a tea trolley, an electric fire and a cheque for £24.87. The presentation was made by Mr. Ken Hutchinson, chairman of the school managers. Miss Johnson, who had been acting headmistress at the school for a time, also received a bouquet from Jane Elston, the school captain.

Mr. S. Towers, headmaster of the school, said when he first took over, he felt the junior at the school. "Here was a teacher in whom I could put my trust". "She had a love of children, an ability to do her work and an ability to adapt to new methods. She may now look forward to a future free from the tensions of working life and a life time of devotions and service. It is nice to know that if we need her, she will only be across the road. We wish you a long and happy retirement".

Said Miss. Kitty Brown, former headmistress at the school: "Whatever we say in praise of her, we shall never have said the whole of it. I was with her for about 20 years and I could not have had a more loyal colleague or a finer teacher through the whole of the country". "Our acquaintance goes back quite a long way", she added. Mrs. Brown spoke of the history of the school under herself and Miss. Johnson, including the war years. "She was always there to help me. "We always thought that someday we would retire together and no two people would be happier than we were". "It did not quite work out like that, but Miss. Johnson is not only the most loyal of colleagues but a very dear friend".

Mr. Hutchinson said "it was a special privilege for him to speak at the meeting and said the love and esteem in which Miss. Johnson was held was bourne out by the number of people in the room and the number who had contributed to the gifts". "She has displayed an affection for the children which has gone well beyond the call of duty of a teacher. We hope you will accept these gifts and our heartfelt thanks for all you have done both in school and in the village".

Said Miss. Johnson: "I feel very happy this evening and sincerely thank all who have given so generously. I have spent many years here and have happy memories of the children"."I have loved and respected all of them and I know they have loved and respected me. I have spent quite a long time in the school and have grown to love it, and I shall be sorry to leave Mr. Towers and the children". "I thank all the managers for being so kind and those who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make the presentation possible".

Representatives of Leicestershire County Council's education dept were also present at the ceremony.



From L to R:-
Miss J. Townsend, Miss Florrie Johnson, Mr S. Towers, Mr Ken. Hutchinson, Jane Elson (School captain)

GRIFFYDAM SCHOOLS LOG BOOK – A SYNOPSIS OF ENTRIES

Date	School	Event
2/11/1936	**Griffydam Infant School**	School officially opened by Lt.Col. R . E. Martin C.M.G. - Chairman of Leicestershire County Council.
18/1/1937		Low attendance due to **influenza epidemic.**
6/4/1937		**Cases of Diphtheria in the area**.
12/5/1937		Holiday to celebrate the coronation of George VI.
23/6/1937		"The school drinking water supply failed. The well having dried up. Arrangements hve been made for drinking water to be fetched daily from **Griffy Well** until further arrangements can be made."
31/8/1937		22 children who had reached 8 years of age were transferred to Griffydam Senior School.
1/10/1937		57 children on roll. 13 children under 5 years.
13/6/1938		**Epidemic of mumps**.
30/8/1938		16 eight year old transferred to Senior School. 7 children admitted. n.o.r. 57.
29/8/1939		10 children transferred to Senior School. n.o.r. 47
1/9/1939		School closed because of "National emergency due to evacuated children coming to district".
7/9/1939		9 evacuees came from Birmingham
17/11/1939		The school was equipped with a drinking fountain in the playground and taps in the cloakroom**. The water was supplied by Ashby Rural District Council.**
28/11/1939		Blackout regulations were introduced.
2/2/1939		"Inclement Weather", the school was cut off by snow drifts on Top Road. Bad weather continued for several weeks.
7/6/1939		**Epidemics of measles and German measles**.
19/6/1939		**Whooping cough epidemic.**
27/7/1939		The Director of Education visited to make arrangements in event of an **air raid.**
13/8/1940		15 children transferred to Senior School.
31/10/1940		Miss Merrishaw was replaced by Miss Wright as Head Teacher.
28/11/1940		30 Birmingham evacuees arrived with their Headteacher Miss Bentley and staff. Classes had to be reorganised.
9/12/1940		**There are now 44 local children and 42 evacuees.**
10/4/41		**Chicken Pox epidemic**.
25/2/1941		48 local children and 39 evacuees. Some are children from London.
10/4/1941		School was kept open during Easter holidays for evacuee children.
4/7/1941		The school was closed until 21st in accordance with the Senior School so that the bigger children can assist in the hay field.
11/8/1941		**Diphtheria immunisation.**

6/1/1942		50 local children and 19 evacuees.
23/11/1942		**Measles epidemic**.
13/9/1943		12 children transferred to Senior School. 38 remaining.
24/9/1945		School closed for **VE day** celebrations.
30/7/1946		10 children transferred. 34 remaining.
9/2/1948		A new electric kettle was brought to school and fitted by Mr Knighton.
27/7/1948		16 pupils transferred to Senior School. 28 remaining.
30/9/1948	**Griffydam Infant and Junior School, School Lane**	**"Today the infant school closes and the children are incorporated in the Griffydam Junior School (formerly Senior School). Miss Johnson continues as infant teacher and I take over as headteacher from Mr Elcock" – Miss K. Wright.**
4/5/1949		"School reopened this morning in the Griffydam Infant School. Workmen are repairing ceilings ,walls and floors at the junior School so we have moved back temporarily back to the Infant School." (subsidence damage)
4/7/1949		Junior school reopened. 3 classes: Miss Johnson 28, Mrs Wright 22, Miss Wright 24.
3/2/1950		**Epidemic of Measles**.
6/9/1950		3 Classes - Miss Wright 27, Miss A King 24, Miss Johnson 36
16/6/1951		A party of children and their parents **visited the Festival of Britain in London.**
13/12/1951		The school had an Open day with a concert and exhibitions of work.
21/3/1951		The school wireless went missing. (Children listened to radio programmes as part of the curriculum).
1/4/1951		**"Today we started hot dinners. 44 children had a hot meal."**
9/7/1951	**Griffydam Infant & Junior School – School Lane**	School outing to Dudley Zoo.
22/5/53		Three days holiday for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1.
3/6/1953		56 adults and 40 children take part in a railway trip to London.
23/6/1953		59 children and 3 teachers visited the Regal cinema (in Coalville) to see the film "A Queen is Crowned".
27/6/1953		A local schools sportsday was held at New Lount Athletics Club (Gelsmoor Road). "We won the Coronation Shield".
16/6/1954		45 children and 40 adults visited Warwick and Stratford on Avon.
7/9/1954	**Griffydam Infant and Junior School-Top Road**	"Today we opened school in the former infant school……. Our building has been decorated and a new furnace installed during th summer holiday. Miss Wright has 28 children in class I and Miss Johnson has 31 children in class II. **The dinners are now being served in the Methodist Sunday School by arrangement with the trustees. 44 children had dinner today.**
5/6/1955		Today there was a joint school outing with Osgathorpe School to Matlock and Buxton.
28/2/1956		**QESS exam (11+) - 9 candidates**.
18/4/1956		60 pupils
4/9/1956		**H.M.I report.** "The washbasins are supplied with cold water only……The Offices (toilets) are fitted with chemical closets, there being no main drainage in the village……Physical education cannot be taken indoors…….Plain sewing, embroidery and soft-toy making is done by the junior girls….Selected broadcast lessons are taken…….Sound and enlightened teaching is being given.

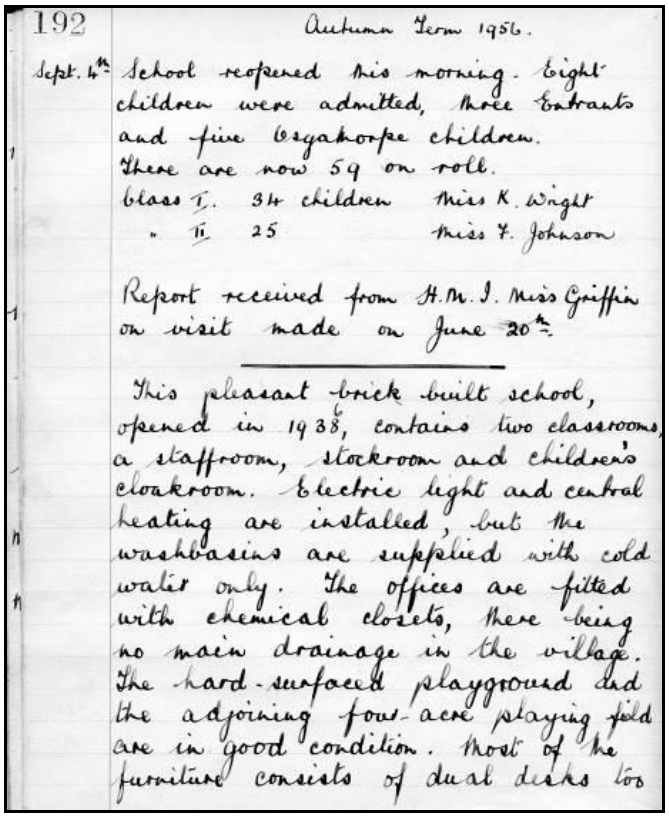
8/1/1957		60 pupils.
26/2/1957		QESS for 9 pupils.
25/6/1957		School outing to the Vale of Evesham.
Date	**Griffydam Primary School – Top Road**	**Notes**
7/1/1958		46 pupils. 10 children left to live on new estate in Worthington.
23/5/1958		**Epidemic of measles.**
25/6/1958		School outing with Osgathorpe Infant School to Woburn Abbey.
9/9/1958		38 pupils. (No new building of houses due to subsidence). Mrs K Brown(Miss K. Wright) 21, Miss Johnson 17
11/6/1959		School trip to Whipsnade.
27/11/1959		Epidemic of Chicken Pox.
5/5/1960		Brooke Bond tea company gave an interesting travel film.
2/6/1960		School trip to the Wye Valley.
6/9/1960		35 pupils.
29/3/1961		Mrs Wright leaves after 12 months as junior teacher.
18/4/1961		Mr Towers takes over as Head Teacher. 39 pupils
22/6/1961		School trip to Whipsnade Zoo.
5/7/1961		Cricket match against Worthington school.
1/5/1962		46 pupils. **No success in 11+.** New blackboards installed. Osgathorpe Infants to move to Griffydam.
11/9/1962		43 puplis including 5 children from Osgathorpe.
13/4/1964		Toilet extension and new stockroom being built.
11/6/1964		School outing to London Zoo.
21/7/1964		Visit to Twycross Zoo (top class).
8/9/1964		51 pupils.
25/5/1965		**Regular weekly swimming began**.
1/7/1966		**Last year of 11+. Leicestershire Plan is being adopted (Comprehensive education).**
10/11/1967		58 pupils. Introduction of “integrated subjects”.
16/2/1968		**22 children can now swim**.
26/2/1968		Meteorological equipment arrived. Student teacher from Loughborough College arrived.
11/4/1968		**Chicken pox epidemic.**
1/5/1968		61 pupils. “The highest number for many years.”

15/6/1968		First fete and sports' day. Mrs K. Brown, former Head Teacher was a guest. The funds raised were for a TV set.
26/8/1968		57 pupils.
25/4/1969		Residential visit to Henley Swann.
14/6/1969		Annual fete. School now divided into Houses: - Charnwood, Beacon, Gracedieu and Sharpley. A shield is awarded to the best House.
10/4/1970		Visit by School Meals Officer
13/4/1970		63 pupils.
21/9/1970		50 pupils. **Measles outbreak.**
15/2/1971		**Decimalisation Day.**
22/6/1971		Sports day.
30/6/1971		Trip to Whipsnade Zoo.
24/8/1971		**Miss Johnson** gave notice after **50 years** teaching.
17/1/1972		New teacher **: Miss Baker**. Discussion with Attendance Officer over free meals for **Miners**' children during **strike**.
28/2/1972		**Payment for school milk started for over 7 year olds (previously free). Two pence per bottle.**
14/6/1972		Trip to Foxton Locks.
30/8/1972		59 pupils.
18/11/1972		Cooker delivered.
20/11/1972		Holiday for Queen's anniversary (20 years)
21/12/1972		Miss Baker left to emigrate.
4/1/1973		**Miss McAusland** started as new infant teacher.
10/1/1973		Cookery lessons started.
2/5/1973		**The Head teacher and a number of pupils had x-rays as there are cases of TB in the village.**
18/8/1973		An extra teacher has been appointed. Miss Lloyd joins Mr Towers and Miss McAusland. 60 pupils.
12/9/1973		Mrs Aldridge appointed as school secretary.
6/11/1973		The scullery is ready. The children now eat dinner at their desks.
10/12/1973		There are now 3 school meals staff:- Mrs Wardle, Mrs Wilton, Mrs Meadows.
18/12/1973		The school Christmas party was held in school, with food served from the new scullery.
20/12/1973		Visit to the cinema.
10/3/1974		Trip to Radcliffe Power station.
1/6/1974		Joint canal trip with Coleorton school.
28/6/1974		Mrs Finnemore left. (Miss McAusland)

28/8/1974		Miss Muir started as infant teacher. Mrs Barker - Junior teacher. Mr Towers - Head Teacher.
28/8/1974		**4 children ate Laburnum seeds and had to go to Leicester Royal Infirmary by ambulance. They needed an overnight stay.**
30/8/1974		**The Laburnum tree removed.**
11/4/1975		67 pupils.
17/12/1975		The school concert, Nativity Play and Carol service was a great success.
13/5/1976		The first cycling proficiency course.
18/5/1976		Visit to Dimminsdale Nature Reserve.
3/6/1976		There was a talk by Mr Killick, Head of Ivanhoe School.
22/6/1976		64 pupils. Trip to Crich Tramway Museum.
12/11/1976		**4 children visited the B.B.C. in London where a poem by one of the pupils was televised on "Merry-go-round".**
22/11/1976		A sponsored walk raised £100.
8/12/1976		School Concert at the Beaumont Centre.
6/6/1977		**Jubilee Week. Sports day, disco, fancy dress parade, villagers' tea partry, football match, games night, Old Time Music Hall. The school was decorated for the occasion.**
27/6/1977		School visit to Twycross Zoo.
31/8/1977		59 pupils.
21/10/1978		Mrs Barker left to have a baby. She was replaced by Mrs Bradfield.
9/1/1978		Visit to Nottingham Playhouse to see "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory".
13/5/1978		13 pupils had a week at Seahouses.
30/8/1978		57 pupils.
2/3/1979		Mrs Banks left, replaced by Mrs Josey. (Mr Towers, Mrs Bradfield)
7/1/1980		64 pupils.
19/5/1980		School meals transferred to Worthington.
11/7/1980		Mrs Bradfield left.
22/8/1980		60 pupils. Mrs Maltby started
21/5/1981		Visit to Elvaston Castle.
17/6/1981		Visit to Woollaton Park.
26/8/1981		47 pupils.
4/12/1981		Cinema visit to see "Bedknobs and Broomsticks".
8/1/1982		49 pupils. Heavy snow.
15/1/1982		School water system frozen. Fuel shortage.

21/5/1982		**P.C. Kent gave a talk about not going with strangers.**
12/6/1982		Fete and sports day.
15/6/1982		12 pupils visited Y.H.A. at Gradbach for 4 days.
28/6/1982		Visit to Gulliver's Kingdom, Matlock.
22/8/1982		**Mrs Josey took over as Acting Head Teacher.** **Mrs Maltby** appointed as acting scale 2 teacher. **Mrs Wooding** appointed as temporary, part-time teacher. 40 pupils. 9 children from Travellers staying on Lower Brand.
12/9/1982		3 children went to Boreatton Park with Newbold school on a P.G.A. adventure week.
22/9/1982		**New school computer.**
11/10/1982		Dr Hadley came with birds of prey.
12/10/1982		Film about Dr Barnadoes.
25/10/1982		**Mr Bradley** appointed as new Head Teacher. 37 pupils.
3/12/1982		School Bazaar raised £200.
9/12/1982		School Play "Old King Cole."
		End of Log Book.

HIS MAJESTIES INSPECTOR'S REPORT - 1956



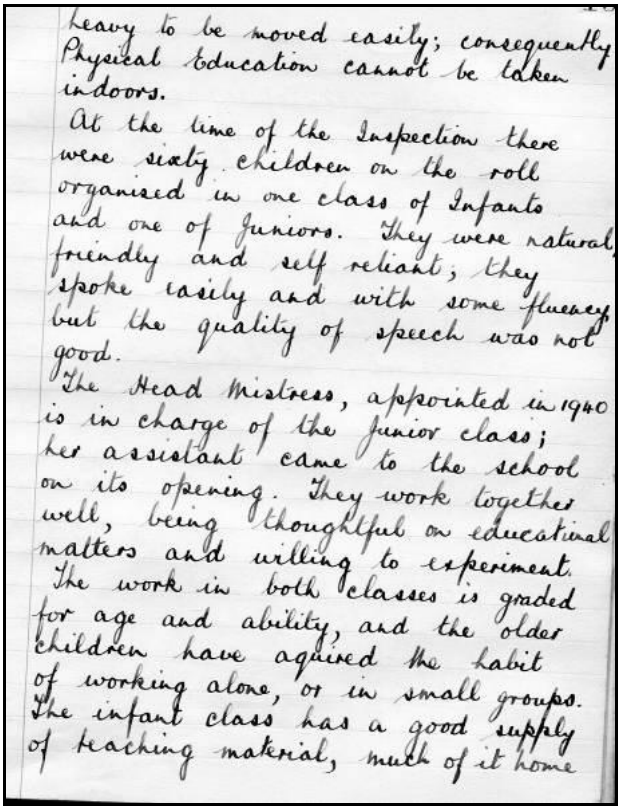
192 Autumn Term 1956.

Sept. 4th School reopened this morning. Eight children were admitted, three entrants and five Orgarthorpe children. There are now 59 on roll.

Class I. 34 children Miss K. Wright
" II. 25 Miss F. Johnson

Report received from H.M.I. Miss Griffin on visit made on June 20th.

This pleasant brick built school, opened in 1938, contains two classrooms, a staffroom, stockroom and children's cloakroom. Electric light and central heating are installed, but the washbasins are supplied with cold water only. The offices are fitted with chemical closets, there being no main drainage in the village. The hard-surfaced playground and the adjoining four-acre playing field are in good condition. Most of the furniture consists of dual desks too

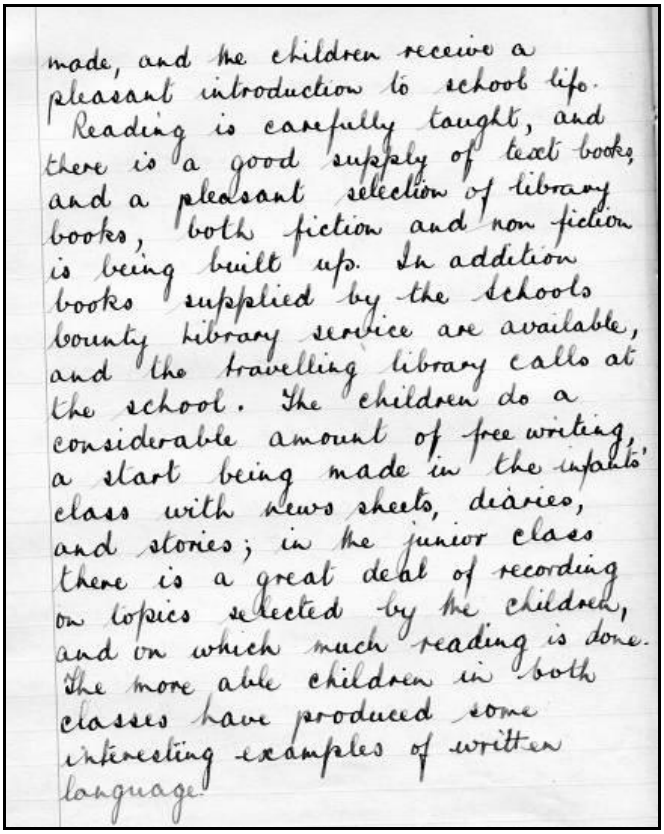


heavy to be moved easily; consequently Physical Education cannot be taken indoors.

At the time of the Inspection there were sixty children on the roll organised in one class of Infants and one of Juniors. They were natural, friendly and self reliant; they spoke easily and with some fluency but the quality of speech was not good.

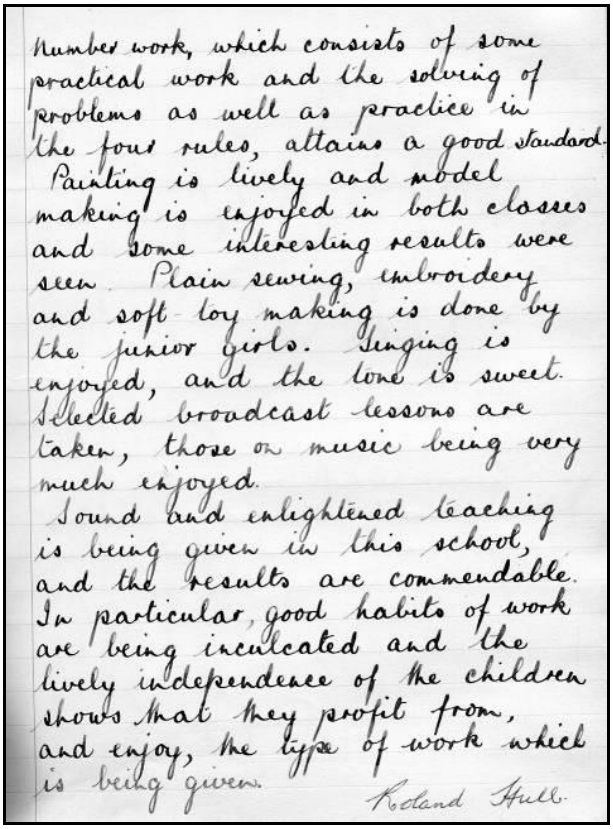
The Head Mistress, appointed in 1940 is in charge of the junior class; her assistant came to the school on its opening. They work together well, being thoughtful on educational matters and willing to experiment.

The work in both classes is graded for age and ability, and the older children have aquired the habit of working alone, or in small groups. The infant class has a good supply of teaching material, much of it home



made, and the children receive a pleasant introduction to school life.

Reading is carefully taught, and there is a good supply of text books, and a pleasant selection of library books, both fiction and non fiction is being built up. In addition books supplied by the schools bounty library service are available, and the travelling library calls at the school. The children do a considerable amount of free writing, a start being made in the infants' class with news sheets, diaries, and stories; in the junior class there is a great deal of recording on topics selected by the children, and on which much reading is done. The more able children in both classes have produced some interesting examples of written language.



Number work, which consists of some practical work and the solving of problems as well as practice in the four rules, attains a good standard.

Painting is lively and model making is enjoyed in both classes and some interesting results were seen. Plain sewing, embroidery and soft toy making is done by the junior girls. Singing is enjoyed, and the tone is sweet. Selected broadcast lessons are taken, those on music being very much enjoyed.

Sound and enlightened teaching is being given in this school, and the results are commendable. In particular, good habits of work are being inculcated and the lively independence of the children shows that they profit from, and enjoy, the type of work which is being given.

Roland Hull.