



# The History of The Hendreds School 1860 - 2015

When I arrived at The Hendreds School to collect files to start researching the village school, the bags of photos, dusty box files and newsletters were brought alive by the tales that Ms Tansley, the headteacher, told me about children who had long since left the school, "He has become very successful in business. The parents of these little Japanese boys still send me a Christmas card." She laughed uncontrollably when we came to some photos of a rather racy performance of 'The Full Monty' by the PTA back in 2002 which raised considerable funds for a building project. Those photos didn't leave the office!



Headmaster Mr Newman with his staff  
Miss Bellamy, Mrs Perry and Miss Lock (L - R) (1920)

## Background to schooling in England

Some of the early history of The Hendreds School is lost but its roots would have been similar to many schools in England. Although the oldest schools in the country date back to medieval times few children experienced regular education before the 19th century. Charity and grammar schools were founded in local communities and during the 18th century small private schools and Sunday schools added to the number of educational establishments. However in the early 1800s many parishes were still without a school of any kind. This wasn't necessarily seen as a hindrance and even as late as 1857 the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, commented that if everyone became learned and unsuited for the plough, "The rest of us would have nothing to eat". Fortunately others recognised the importance of education and two

voluntary organisations, the *British and Foreign Schools Society* and the *National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church* were founded (1808 and 1811 respectively). The British Schools Society was non-sectarian while the National Society followed denominational teaching. As the 1800s unrolled more parishes provided schools but children's attendance was irregular until legislation in approximately 1880 enforced school attendance. The Elementary Education Act meant that attendance at school ceased to be optional: children had to attend between the ages of 5 and 10, with exceptions such as illness or if children lived too far from a school.

The curriculum was dominated by reading, writing and arithmetic (the 'Three Rs') and government grants were dependent upon attendance and the results of an annual examination. Matthew Arnold (one of Her Majesty's Inspectors) denounced the 'payment by results' system which eventually ended by 1890. Investments in schools led to a growing demand for teachers. Some teacher training colleges were established but many others learned on the job as pupil teachers serving as apprentices to the head for five years from the age of thirteen. They sometimes studied further at a teacher training college to become fully qualified. There were many challenges for teachers and in remote single teacher schools, staff could be intellectually and professionally isolated. It was only with the 1944 Education Act that all eleven year olds had the right to a secondary education and from then the pace of change sped up.



Rev. Alfred Pott who initiated The Hendreds School



## From 1859 - 1933

"I Alfred Pott Rector of East Hendred in the County of Berks with the consent of The Right Reverend Samuel Said Bishop of Oxford Bishop of the Diocese... do hereby freely and voluntarily and without valuable consideration grant and convey... a piece of land situated in East Hendred... for a School for the education of children of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the parish of East Hendred..." So reads the indenture signed and sealed in 1859 by many venerable gentlemen.

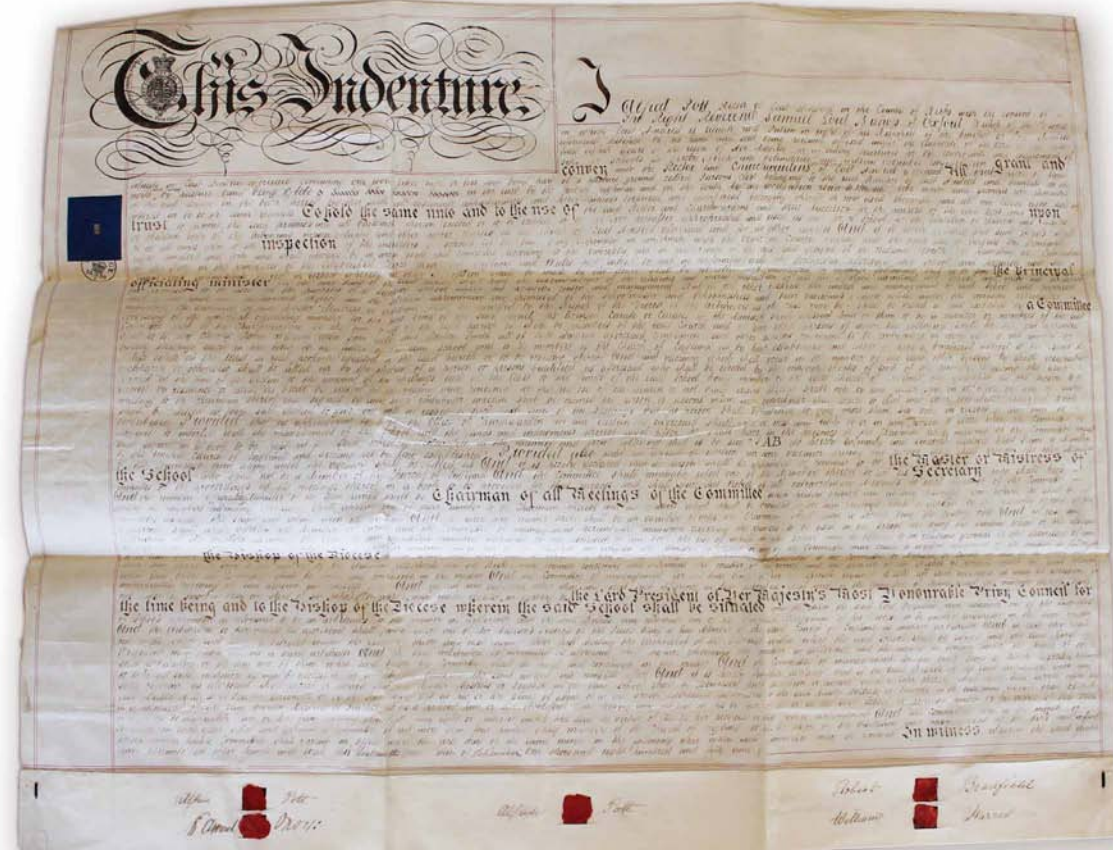
Thanks to the rector Alfred Pott for initiating the creation of a school, on 6 January 1860 the East Hendred National School was opened with 100 children on the roll, one master and two pupil teachers.

It was in 1859 that the school was designed by the famous architect, Henry Currey (1820 – 1900), who was one of the 6th Duke of Devonshire's architects. What connection he had with the village is uncertain however he and the rector, Alfred Pott (1822 – 1908), both attended Eton College where perhaps they met.

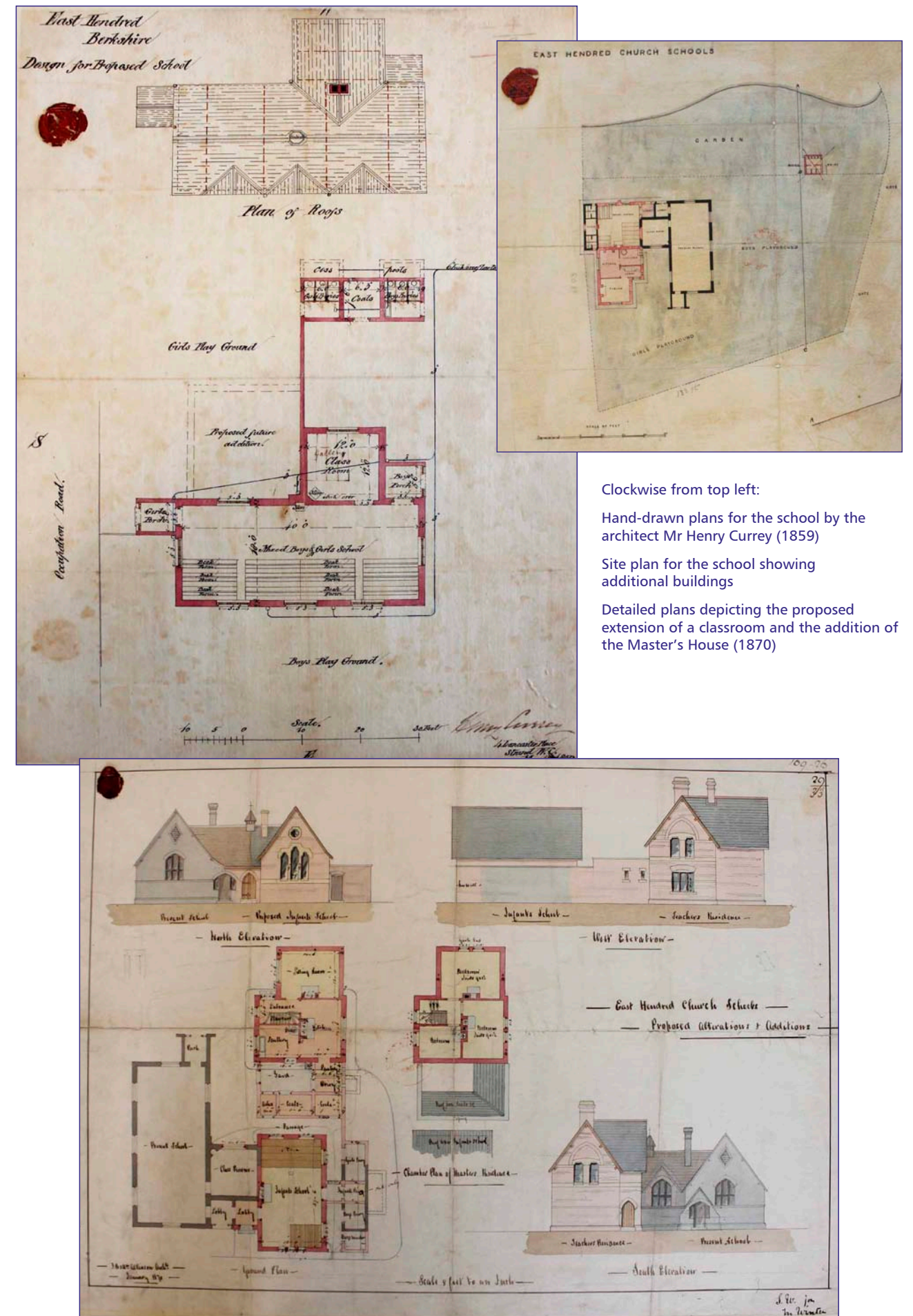
Mr Currey's beautiful, detailed hand-drawn plans can still be viewed at the Berkshire Record Office. His original

plan showed a large room for a mixed boys' and girls' school although most properly there were separate boys' and girls' entrances and of course separate play grounds. There was also another smaller room just labelled 'Classroom' and this name stuck right into the 1940s. 'Privies' (three for boys and three for girls) were separate from the main building but the school was designed with expansion in mind, and in 1870 there was the additional building of an infant class and the Master's House. The school building was to serve the village for more than 100 years before changing its guise to Snells Hall and continuing to be a valuable village asset. Besides educating children the school held evening classes for adults three times a week. In 1864 the annual cost of the school was £123.10s.0d including salaries and of this the rector contributed £68.6s.0d.

Berkshire Record Office holds the bank book inscribed 'East Hendred National School' as it was then known. Slipped into the pocket of this book are a number of crossed cheques dating between 1887 – 1890. It appears that staff were paid approximately three times a year with Mr George R Stevens, the headmaster, receiving the princely sum of approximately £25 per cheque while his assistants received between £7 and £9.



The indenture written in 1859 conveyed the church land for creation of a school and set out its constitution. (See page 20 to read a full transcription.)



Clockwise from top left:

Hand-drawn plans for the school by the architect Mr Henry Currey (1859)

Site plan for the school showing additional buildings

Detailed plans depicting the proposed extension of a classroom and the addition of the Master's House (1870)



Their names include a Miss Agnes Bartlett, Miss Castle, Miss E Smith and Mr West. Lowly monitors (unnamed) received between £2 and £4. The Chairman of Governors was always the church rector and it appears he had oversight while it was the managers who were involved in day-to-day administration. In beautiful, although not always legible, flourishes the managers that signed the cheques included Lawrence Besley, Thomas Bowles, William Denniss, John Allin and Robert Bradfield.

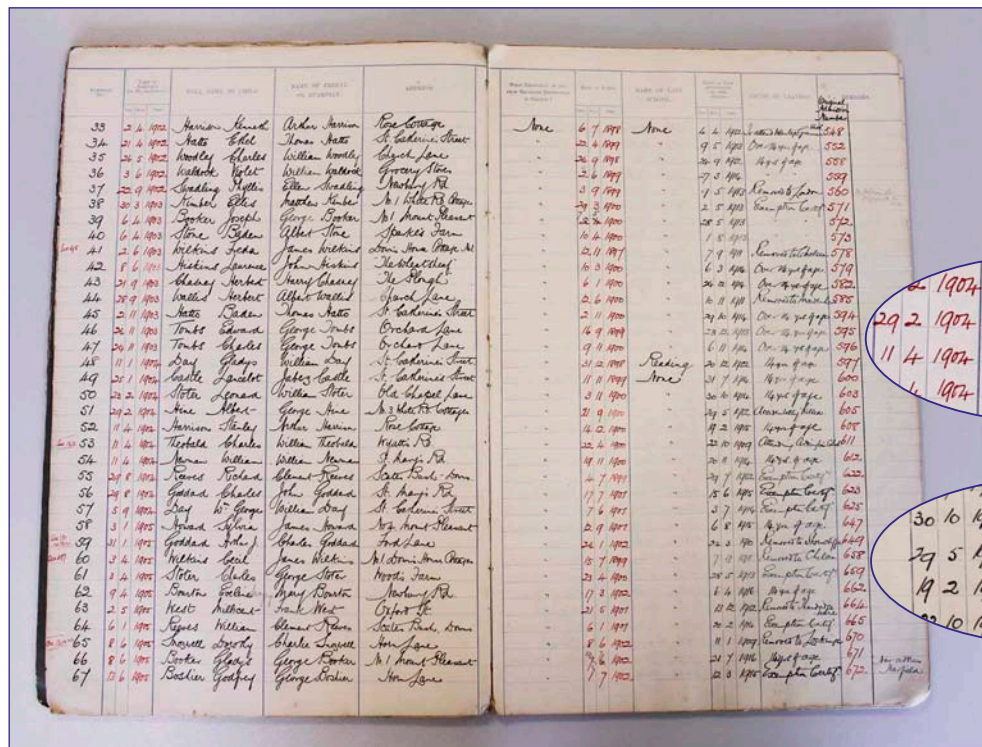
Berkshire Record Office also holds the Admissions Register for the school dating from 1 November 1908 which shows the first child registered as Charles Chasney (born 29 October 1894) who lived at The Plough. As his original admission number was 456, it points to an earlier school register the whereabouts of which is unknown. Charles started at school on 7 March 1898 and continued until 29 April 1909, the reason for his leaving was that he was 'Over 14 years of age'. Other reasons for leaving include children 'removed' to London, Reading, Lockinge, Ardington or West Hendred. Kenneth Harrison (born 6 July 1898) who lived at Rose Cottage left the school in 1912 to attend the Wantage Grammar School. Frank Aldworth of St Catherine's Street was given '6 months leave through weakness' in 1909.

Between the dry dates and names one can glean stories which include the tragic one of Albert Hine from No. 3 White Road Cottages. He left the school on 29 May 1912 and the reason given in the Admissions Register was 'Accidentally killed'. Albert was only 11 years old. This distant history became much more personal when I spoke to Robin Hine who lives in East Hendred.



The bank book and cheques for The Hendreds School (1880s)

I mentioned Albert Hine, "That was my uncle", said Robin and he told me that Albert was killed by a car when bowling a hoop from his house across the road - now the A417. It seems especially unfortunate to be killed by a motor car in a quiet village in the early 1900s when the first fatal road accident in England was less than 20 years previously. On the day of Albert's funeral his fellow boy scouts lined the route to pay their respects. The Hine family moved to Ginge and then back to East Hendred where Robin's father, George Hine (1913 - 2005), attended The Hendreds School. In due course Robin and his brother Tony followed suit.



The Admissions Register with information about Albert Hine



Clockwise from top left:

View of the school from Church Street (1922)

School photo of Sidney, Elizabeth and George Hine (1918)

George Hine's presentation book prizes (1926)

Infants class with W. Swadling, a pupil-teacher, standing first left in back row and Mr Stevens, the headmaster, standing centre back row (late 1880s)

Children standing outside the school (approx. 1910)

The school from the top of Snells Field (1910). The Elm trees are still present in the photo. The last was cut down in 1963.





## From 1933 - 1945

I had the privilege of speaking to one of the older former pupils of The Hendreds School, Stan Francis (b. 1928), who is now 86 years old and attended the school from 1933. He well remembers Mr Bertram Everest Newman, the headmaster. Mr Newman was also the head when Stan's mother was at the school and some notes suggest he was headmaster from 1900 until approximately 1936 as well as coming out of retirement and assisting the school from 1939 to 1945. He was known as a strict disciplinarian and Stan concurred that corporal punishment was the norm. However he assured me that he was never caned being a well-behaved boy. He told me, "Mr Newman didn't have any time for thick children, but fortunately I was a bright one."

There were 60 children in Stan's time and wearing a uniform had not been introduced; it would only be in 1983 that a navy blue school sweatshirt was adopted. At break time the children liked to play, 'I wrote a letter to my love', marbles and the perennial favourite: conkers. Stan could still remember the rhyme the children used, "I tiddly onker, my first conker" (conquer). Football was played regularly and the boys used the field behind the current village shop near Hendred House.

Stan's records in the Admissions Register show that he started school on 11 October 1933 and left 22 December 1942 when he was 'Over 14 years of age'.

Stan can still remember the evacuees arriving during the Second World War and how pitiful little boys wearing shorts arrived with their suitcases and were met at the school building by village families. The evacuees had an awful master – a Mr Richards who was a tyrant and used to whip them terribly. He never whipped the village children as Mr Newman would not have stood for it. For all that, a number of the evacuees have fond memories of the village and some still return regularly. A few years ago they arranged for a plaque to be placed in Snells Hall inscribed, "Our everlasting gratitude to the good folk of East Hendred who opened their homes and hearts to many evacuees during World War Two". Stan was born, christened, educated and married in East Hendred and, as he says, he will no doubt be buried here.

Tony Hine (b. 1933) also shared the story of his school days. He started school on a snowy morning in January 1938 and joined Miss Prior's infant class where he spent two years learning to read, write, count and knit. The children progressed to 'The Classroom', a room connecting the infants' room and main schoolroom.

Here they were under the watchful eye of Miss Payne. The Classroom was heated in winter by an open fire and its walls were hung with maps and charts of venerable age. After a year due to academic achievement or the need for stricter discipline the children progressed to the main schoolroom which was the province of the headmaster, Mr Newman. He had the challenging task of teaching boys and girls with a wide range of ages and no doubt ability. Lighting was provided by large oil lamps suspended from the ceiling and heating by radiators fuelled from a boiler alongside the headmaster's desk. Two large curtains could be used as room dividers. There were rows of fixed desks, a piano and a large printed, dog-eared wall chart of hymns. Scripture formed the basis of the day's activities and each day commenced with prayers and a hymn while grace was sung before and after the mid-day break.

Tony also described how school life changed with the advent of the Second World War and the arrival of evacuees from East London – children from Raven Hill School in West Ham. In order for their schooling to continue the village children attended school in the morning and played organised games outside afterwards and the evacuees vice versa. This arrangement continued for a few weeks until the Parish Room became the full time schoolroom for the East Enders. Eventually some evacuees returned home and the reduced number and one of their teachers, Mr Richards, joined the school. Tony paints a slightly different image of this teacher compared to Stan's reminiscences. Mr Richards enhanced the scripture lessons with descriptions of biblical locations and anecdotes of his army days in Palestine during the First World War. He also provided a weekly silent film show with educational films.

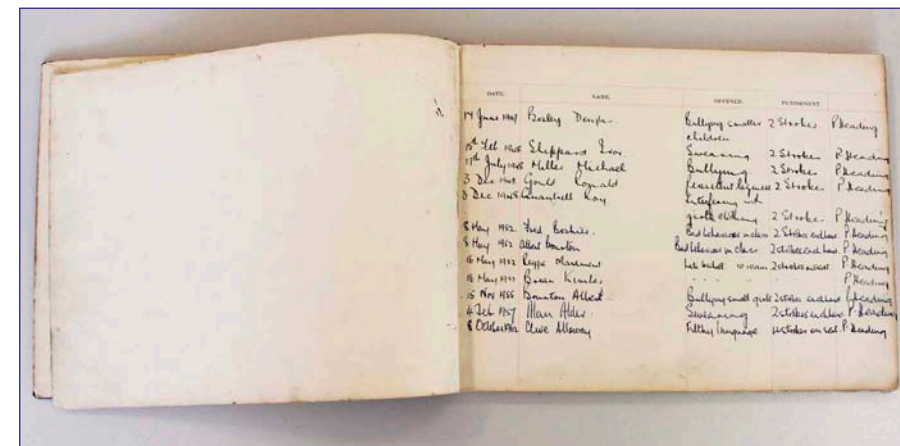
School dinners were introduced during the war being cooked in Wantage and delivered each day by the WVS (now WRVS). Milk was also introduced and the children each received a third of a pint from Tom Cowdery's dairy every morning at playtime. Gardening lessons were adapted to the Dig for Victory campaign and the children were sent off to the allotments on Chapel Furlong to toil and were given time off in the summer to pick fruit and in the autumn to dig up potatoes.

In 1944 Tony and a few of his fellow pupils moved on to a Didcot School because of the opportunities offered in a larger school while other classmates continued under Mr Newman until they left at the age of 14.

## From 1945 - 1967

Another fascinating document held by the Berkshire Record Office is the Punishment Book. Corporal punishment, which varied from caning on the bottom or the hand to a slap, was meted out to unruly pupils. The Punishment Book is dated 29 August 1904 but interestingly enough the first entry is in 1947. It doesn't appear to have had pages removed so perhaps it had been stored in a cupboard for some time. The offences varied from 'Bullying smaller children' and 'Filthy Language' to 'Interfering with girl's clothing'. Punishments were normally '2 strokes on each hand'. Two naughty little boys, Brian Kimber from 7 Mill Lane and Albert Bourton from St. Catherine's Street, were very late to school one day in 1952 arriving at 10.10am and received two strokes on their seat. It was the month of May and one can imagine them loitering and being distracted by a stream or creepy crawlies as they ambled to school. There are not many entries in the Punishment Book and it ends in 1962 which suggests that either records were not fastidiously kept or corporal punishment was not as regular as one thinks. Incidentally corporal punishment at state schools was banned in 1987 and in private schools it was finally banned in 1999.

Following a paper trail of letters and documents at Berkshire Record Office from 1946 it became clear a drama was unfolding about whether the school was viable or not. On 12 December 1946 Berkshire Education Committee reported that the school's buildings were sub-standard and unsuitable for adaptation. They reported that the site was only a quarter of an acre



The Punishment Book

including the school house and that there was no suitable land for extension or for playing fields to be adjacent to the school. They felt it would be necessary to build a school on a new site and proposed a voluntary primary school for a maximum of 50 children between the ages of 5 and 12 organised into two classes. The timetable for this would be by 1960 if the school was not seeking Aided status.

There were some very angry letters from Colonel Tennant of White Cottage who was the school's correspondent. He said that the school was not aware they were being surveyed and that the managers were not approached. There were no more than 30 children at the school and this would never be exceeded due to the small size of East Hendred and because there was another school in the village – St. Amands. He felt there was sufficient land to extend the classrooms and children could play in Snells Field. He felt that the small Church of England village population would never be able to raise £4,820 over the next 15 years to retain their Aided status.

The letters go back and forth emphasizing to me the complexity, confusion and frustration over the school's status and future. In 1948 the managers of East and West Hendred schools agreed in principle to build a joint school for the two parishes. Yet there was still confusion about the status of the school – would it be Aided or Controlled and what was required of the managers if it was now a new combined school? In 1951 there is a letter from The Oxford Diocese explaining that in order to be Aided the two parishes must, with the Diocese's help, find 50% of the cost. If they couldn't do this the school would be designated a County School. In 1952 there was a letter from the Oxford Diocese encouraging all schools to apply for Aided status as nothing would be lost by making the application. With their initial grant



View of the school from the church tower. Mr Heading's car is in the garage which is placed alongside the school near the boys' and headmaster's entrance (late 1950s)



and money already collected there would be a balance to be raised over a period of years which would be well within their capacity. They needed to do this within six months and return the attached slip within the next 10 days. The slip, however, was still attached to the letter and the correspondence came to an abrupt end! Yet somehow resolutions must have been reached and a new building was completed on the edge of East Hendred by 1967.

Mr Phil Heading was the headmaster from the 1940s until 1967 and lived in the school house alongside the school, which is now used as the warden's flat at Snells Hall. There were four classes at the time with Mrs Woods taking the reception class, Mrs Ashthorpe, Mr Heading and his wife, Mrs Heading. Village lore has it that it was the Headings' son, when a pupil, who planted the original conker for the big horse chestnut tree in the Snells Hall grounds.

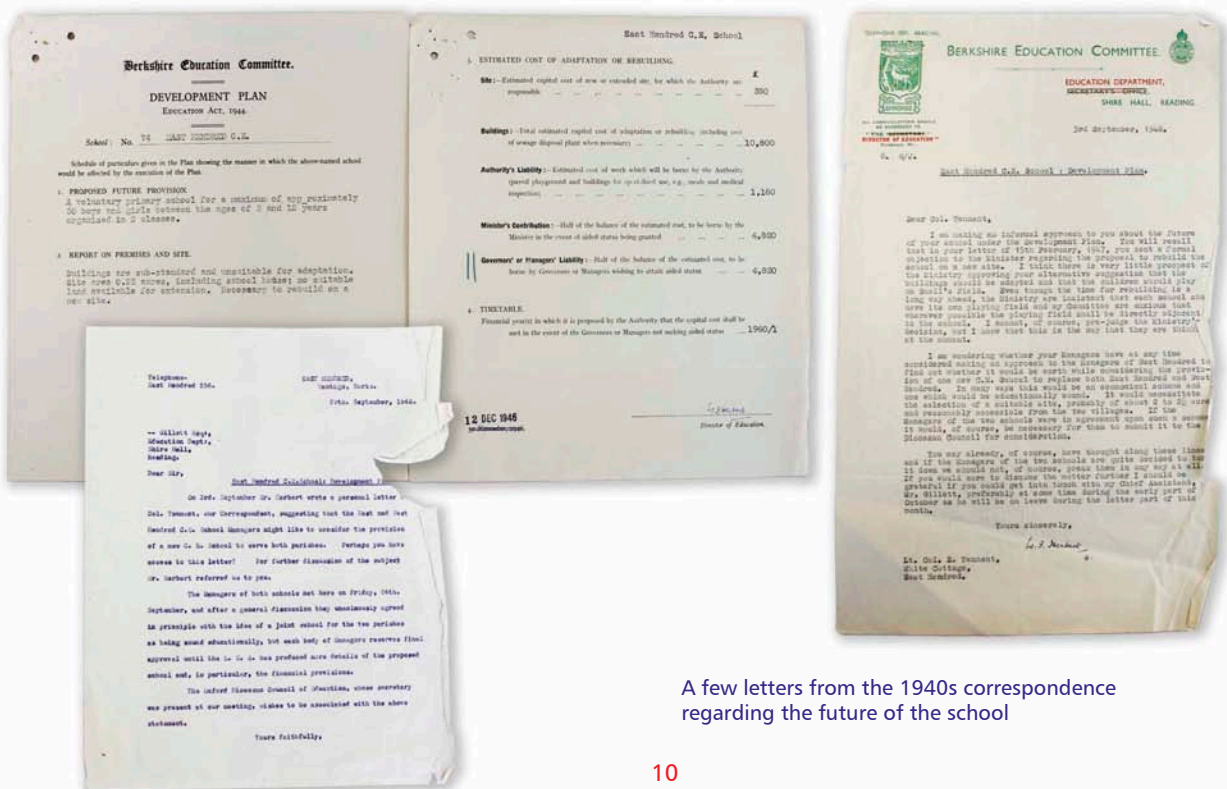
Robin Hine (b. 1947) was at the school from 1952 – 1958 and explained that Mr Heading would just disappear. He would write volumes of information on the blackboard then put two children in charge of the class and leave for whatever appointment he had or wherever the fancy took him. Not many parents were pleased about this and some chose not to send their children to the local school. As you can imagine, this decision did not endear them to the school but like every organisation, the school has had its ebbs and flows.



East Hendred Church of England School Photo (1957)

**Back row:** Christine Booker, Barry Hitchcox, Annabell Jackson, Alan Alder, Bubbles Mosson, Pauline Castle, Stephen Shepherd, Jean Buttler. **Middle row:** Patricia Prater, Pauline Thompson, Veronica Shepherd, Mary Cowdrey, Gill Rosum. **Front row:** Eric Castle, John Coventry, Robin Hine, Terry Roberts

Mr Heading was not selected for the headship when the school prepared to move to its current site and the Berkshire Education Authority made him a supply head teacher and he subsequently moved from the village.



A few letters from the 1940s correspondence regarding the future of the school

## From 1967 - 1990

In 1967 The Hendreds School moved to its current site on the edge of East Hendred village. The old village school and school house was bought for the village for £8000 and converted into the village hall and warden's flat which formally opened as Snells Hall in 1974.

Following the agreed school merger, West Hendred School which was next to the West Hendred church, closed in 1967 with the last headmaster being Mr Prosser. At one stage, this school took children until

**Ford Lane**  
The Parish Council is much concerned about the safety of children using Ford Lane on their way to and from school. With this in mind, Berkshire County Council has been asked to close the Lane to through traffic by the erection of a barrier at the south end. The County Council is consulting the Police and traffic authorities and will give its decision in due course.

**The Hendreds School**  
Would the parents of children who will be five years of age during the years 1978 and 1979 and who will probably be attending the Hendreds School, please let the Headmaster have details.

We hope to be having the following events:

Saturday 10th June, evening  
10th Anniversary Barbecue on the School Field, for present parents & ex-parents and ex-pupils. P school for tickets and further details (379)  
Tuesday 13th June  
School Sports

From top to bottom:  
Extracts from East Hendred Bulletins  
July 1968  
April 1978  
June 1982  
June 1983

**Letter from Mr Stuart Hepple on his retirement from The Hendreds School.**  
May I thank you all for the wonderful retirement Party which you gave me on Thursday 1st April 1982.

It was very moving to see so many of you once again under the school roof. I think I remembered everyone – even though some of you were much taller than you were the last time I saw you!

It is impossible for me to express my appreciation for the many gifts which you have given me, but your great generosity has given me reminders of "The Hendreds" throughout my home and, of course, on my wrist.

in from time to time, n may I wish you all

Stuart Hepple

## THE HENDREDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many thanks to all those who supported our Jumble Sale last term. Over £100 was raised to put towards our school computer.

The School Fete on June 11th will have been held before this newsheet appears. I hope everyone will have had an enjoyable day.

The school sports will be held on July 14th in the evening, everybody is welcome.

As the school will be receiving its computer in mid-June we would like to hold a 'Computer Evening' for everybody. If you have a home computer and would like to show its capabilities please contact me at the school. A proposed date is the 7th July.

If there are any parents with pre-school children who would like a copy of our school prospectus please contact me.

P.R. Gurney

they reached the age of 15 and at its peak, there were 60 – 70 children in a tiny building. Permission from the farmer, Mr Glover, was given to use a path along the edge of his field to access the new school building in East Hendred. This path is known as The Furlong and is as popular with children cycling and walking today as it was then.

On 11 November 1967 The Hendreds School was officially opened by Baron Penney. It was headed by Mr Stuart Hepple aided by 3 full-time assistants and had four classes with 83 children in total. The headmaster would regularly place notices in the local newsletter inviting parents to send particulars about their child if they wished them to attend the school.

Even as early as 1968 there were concerns about the safety of children from traffic and the parish council requested that the County Council close Ford Lane to through traffic with the erection of a barrier in the road.

In the late 1970s numbers at the school fell due to stagnation in house building and the school went through a decade of turbulent times. There were still celebrations such as the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Barbecue in 1978 for parents, children and ex-pupils as well as regular school fêtes. In 1981 when Mrs Robey retired as cook-in-charge the kitchens were closed and meals were brought in from Harwell School. In 1982 an Area Education Officer arrived at the school to declare that one teacher must be re-deployed due to the low number on roll. Mrs Twine, an infant teacher, obtained a post in Abingdon. The head's report of July 1982 states, "Great shock at this news as the school will become a two teacher school". Numbers on the roll continued to fall until the late 1980s and in January 1985 the head's report to the Governors stated that there were 42 children on the roll with 5 of those leaving in July.

One of the pupils during this phase was Dean Quinn (1979 – 1985). Dean lives in East Hendred and is a second generation pupil as his mother also attended the school in its original building and it is quite impressive to think that his three children are attending the school. Dean could remember there being a pond outside the current Class 3 – and also being pushed into it. He had weekly country dancing lessons in the school hall and his Class 1 teacher, Mrs Twine, gave the children a pint of milk once a week in the old glass milk bottles. Weekly garden lessons took place in the allotments which were in front of the area where the teachers now park their cars. It was whilst he was at school that the pupils each planted a tree which created the avenue down the driveway.



Dean said that sadly 'his' tree was chopped down to place a bike shed which has subsequently been replaced with the new hall. Dean remembers he would go home for lunch and also participating in swimming which took place at Ardington School in the freezing outdoor pool.

Mr Hepple retired in April 1982 and was succeeded by Mr Phillip Gurney. From 1983, the school accommodated Hendreds Pre-school which was fairly nomadic in its early years. This created a close relationship with the older pre-schoolers visiting Class 1 weekly and ensured that the transition to school was seamless. The school didn't even charge the pre-school rent.

In the early 1980s the school opened its first library for pupils consisting of two cupboards containing around 50 books. In July 1983 the head's report stated that the school was "unable to buy any reading or reference books. Secretarial equipment is restricted and we are now at the bare bones. This is the same for all primary schools, not just ours." It was interesting to read that in 1983 the school held a jumble sale and raised over £100 to go towards the school computer with plans put in place to hold a 'Computer Evening' to show its capabilities. Times have changed at the school and now even the youngest children have access to iPads.

Mr Gurney resigned in 1986 after four years as Headteacher and there was fear that it would be difficult to attract applicants with only 51 children on the roll.

Mrs Pamela Bowen was appointed head in April 1987 taking over from a temporary head who was in place. She celebrated the school's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in its current site and Lady Penney, the Rev. Ron Foster and Stan Francis were guests of honour at the party. During her time Mrs England was the lower school teacher while

she taught the upper school. Mrs Booth was a part-time teacher whose special talent was her outstanding art work.

During this period, the school formed the Ridgeway Federation of small schools sharing facilities and skills especially providing support for each other when computers were introduced. The school would play football, netball, cricket and rounders with Ardington, Childrey, Challow and Uffington schools. The many activities at the school included a ten mile sponsored walk to West Ilsley for a pub lunch in aid of sport equipment. There was a field trip to York and even a pet show and of course the annual school fête which raised £900 in 1989.

Mrs Bowen's relationship with the school has not ended as she returned to the school in 2014 and 2015 as Dr Staggs-Jones to teach philosophy to the children.

## From 1990 - 2015

In January 1990 Ms Elizabeth Tansley took on the mantle of headship from Mrs Bowen.

Traffic issues raised their head and in 1992 the County Council agreed to paint 'School - no Parking' outside the school and it was hoped that everyone would observe these markings and park elsewhere. As early as 1999 Snells path was being planned as a safer route to school and this finally came to fruition after much negotiation and collaboration with the boardwalk opening ten years later in 2009. A cycling proficiency course was being offered to older children from 2000 and is still going strong in 2015 under the guidance of parents.

In January 1994 the current school uniform of black sweatshirts, red polo shirts and kilts was implemented. The boys' uniform initially consisted of black jogging bottoms until the early 2000s when smarter black trousers were introduced.

At the end of 1994, the comfortable relationship between the school and pre-school had to come to an end as the school was expanding and required more space so the pre-school relocated. This was because in 1994 the Oxfordshire Education Authority decreed that Ardington School would be closed as numbers had dropped to 17 and children were to be bussed to The Hendreds School.

The Education Reform Act of 1988 was the most important piece of education legislation since the Education Act of 1944 and brought huge changes.



The children enjoying music with Marcel (2009)



Lady Penney at the school's 30<sup>th</sup> school anniversary at the current site (1997)

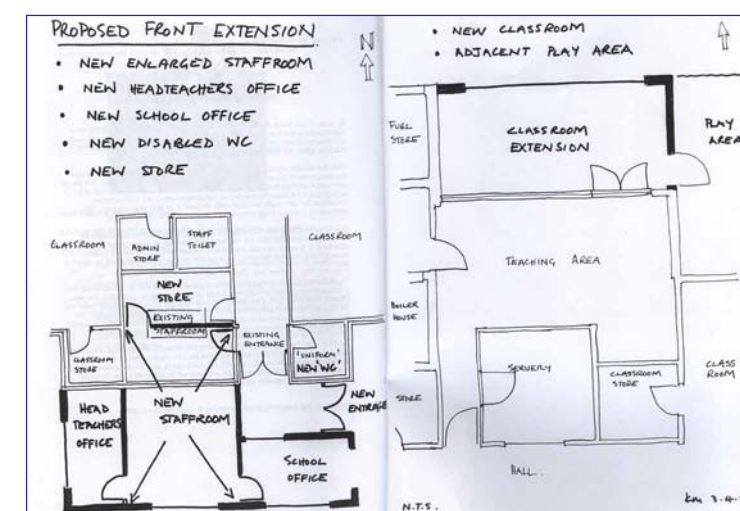
Not only did it see the advent of the National Curriculum, new rules on the teaching of R.E. and Collective Worship and changes to School Admissions but it also included the introduction of the Local Management of Schools. This dramatically changed the roles of the Headteacher and the Governing Body: schools were now responsible not only for the education of pupils but also for the control of funding, procurement, staffing, health and safety and premises management. In the academic year of 1991/92 Oxfordshire Schools received their first delegated budgets and with it the arrival of a new finance system. In those early days, the schools employed the Bursar Service run by Capita to fulfil this role, supported by the school secretary Lynn Steele. When Nikki Wilkins joined the staff in 1999 with her financial background, she was well placed to take on the role of School Bursar. The annual budget has now reached over half a million pounds compared to £123 in 1864!

Other changes in the late 1990s were the introduction of Literacy Hour which is a daily period in schools set aside for developing reading skills. The LEA (Local Education Authority) now LA (Local Authority) took control of admissions. Parents could give a preference for a particular school but could no longer choose. At this stage the school was divided into four class rooms, Reception, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3, with a total of seven year groups split up between these classes. As well as being the head Ms Tansley taught Class 1 with the assistance of a part-time teacher. In 2000 Numeracy Hour was implemented, a government initiative where every school was expected to provide a daily maths lesson. The Hendreds School aimed to provide a varied curriculum and was offering regular PE lessons, French, music and Judo. There were cultural delights such as a theatre trip to see 'Sleeping Beauty', a day in Oxford and

a visit to an art exhibition by the local artist Paul Kessling. A 2001 AGM report mentioned that Bassistry Arts gave the pupils a new musical experience. Children still enjoy their annual visit and by 2015 they were composing music on iPads with Marcel and the team.

The unused kitchen was converted to create more teaching space but the school was still bursting at the seams. In spring 2001 it was proposed that the school would have a front extension with an enlarged staff room, a headteacher's office, school office and a disabled WC. This was to ease the pressure on teaching space with administration having its own designated area. Pupil numbers had certainly improved and in July 2001 there were 121 children on roll.

In November 2000 Mrs Porter introduced Latin with Mrs Dunsdon supporting her in teaching it for 15 years. In 2015 she passed on the baton to other teachers with the children still voting it one of their favourite subjects. The rationale was teaching Latin was to raise achievement in



Top: School entrance in 2000  
Above: Proposed sketches for The Hendreds School (2001)





Above: Ms Tansley and class in the 1990s



Left: Ms Tansley wore the winning hat for the day. (2007)

English by enlivening and broadening the understanding of languages as well as challenging learners of all abilities. It certainly made for imaginative stories with one child writing about his life as a Roman soldier saying that he had itchy armour and he thought he'd got lice.

In the early 2000s there was much emphasis on learning French as Mrs Adley, the wife of the vicar, gave lessons helping the children to communicate confidently and established French teaching throughout the school. A few children participated in the Hendreds Twinning Exchange, an annual event organised by East Hendred with their twin village of Sarceaux in Normandy. One little boy had this to say about his trip, "I recommend it to anyone who enjoys French. Well, anyone at all really!"

The school has had an after-school club since 1998 called The Hendred Owls which provides an extended day up to 5:30pm. The popular Breakfast Club was initially introduced by Ms Ward during the summer term of 2004 for Year 6s to give them a boost with maths in preparation for SATs. It was offered regularly to all children from September 2006.

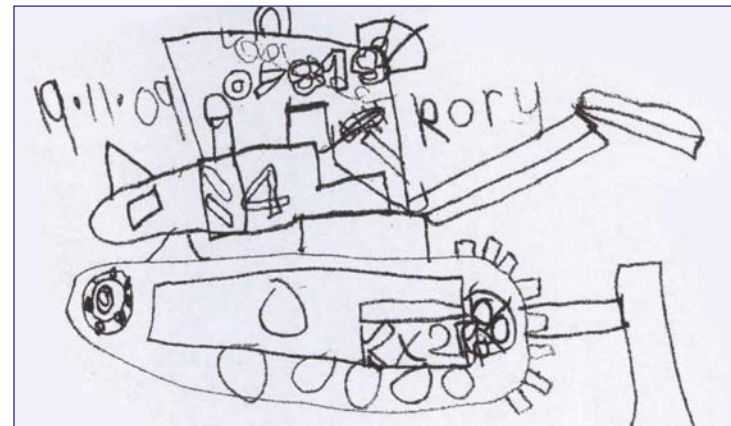
There was even a Summer School for a few years which was run for the first two weeks of the holidays by Ms Tansley and Mrs Porter. The first one was in 2001 and was a great success raising £2,000 for ICT equipment.

Technology and access to computers was of increasing importance with children using computers more regularly as long as the connections to the internet permitted but glitches in hardware continually frustrated staff in the early days. Children had the excitement of developing email links with a school in Australia in 2002 and by the end of 2003 children had access to 17 computers including laptops and desktops and finally broadband arrived in the Hendreds. By 2005 the school had a simple website and letters were being sent to parents by email, something which we take for granted now but which seemed very progressive at the time. iPads, white boards and the internet have now become a regular and unremarkable part of the school day.

Sport and PE were emphasised throughout the 2000s. Judo was introduced in 1991 and is still going strong. Mr Goddard was the first instructor followed upon his retirement by Mr Gerrans. Mrs Clement, a specialist gymnastic teacher, held a generation in thrall to her exacting standards. With the appointments of Mr Savage and Mr Veness, both PE specialists, the importance of physical education in its broadest sense became even more prominent.

In summer 2001 Bernard Wilkins, a parent and a UK Athletics coach, offered to run a four-week athletics programme for the pupils. He continued to deliver these sessions every year until the summer of 2011 and in recent times assisted Mr Savage with the organisation of the school's very own Cross Country event held in West Hendred. The summer Sports Day was run by Year 6 pupils so they could experience leadership and quickly became a tradition. In 2008 the school received an award for their exceptional delivery and high profile of sport.

In autumn 2002 there was mention of The Nativity Play, the first time the one we know and love was performed. It was written by Melanie Griffiths, a parent at the school, and was created so that each child had a speaking part and no one was fobbed off with being a bleating lamb or a donkey. The Nativity Play has always been the domain of the younger children while the older children have branched out to delight and amaze parents with productions such as 'Cats', 'The Christmas Soldier', 'Sparrowhawk' and Shakespeare.



Top: Construction work inspired the children's artwork (2009)  
Above: Assembly in the new hall (2010)

In the early part of the 2000s, governors sought to change the status of the school from Voluntary Controlled (VC) to Voluntary Aided (VA) enabling the school to improve the service it provided to the community without losing the partnership with the LA. This change was approved on 12 September 2002 and it meant that the school would receive more support on premises development and a wider range of funding options which was important for the building work they were embarking on.

In 2002 a porta-cabin was sited to provide an extra classroom so that class sizes could be significantly reduced. The office area and new school entrance were complete but the school still required more space. In 2003 it began to develop proposals for major improvements including a kitchen, a permanent new classroom, enhancing existing classrooms, providing an acceptable resource area and cloak rooms and a hall large enough for all school activities. Planning and funding was the next step in the process. By the end of

2005 the first phase of this £200k project was complete. However the porta-cabin was still being used as a temporary classroom (only demolished in 2009) and the school desperately needed a larger hall.

Finally in early 2010 with designs by Ridge Architects and after a year of building work by Hillsdon Construction, a fantastic new hall was completed along with the new foyer, a kitchen, a breakout classroom and a purpose-built reception classroom with its own loos. This was the third phase of building works and the most ambitious. Funding came from the Diocese, with the school being responsible for raising 10% of the one million three hundred and sixty thousand pound it took. Our PTA (Friends of Hendreds School) worked tirelessly for 10 years to secure this magnificent result. Ms Tansley and the staff took great pleasure finalising décor in the foyer with a subtle cross in contrasting coloured glass and a striking red wall in the hall. The kitchen was opened and serving meals by the summer of 2010 and food was no longer being delivered ready-cooked from St. Amands school. One child informed his family, "Before we had a kitchen at school, we used to eat St. Amands' leftovers!" He would not be persuaded otherwise.

Outdoor areas were not forgotten and have been adjusted and improved over time. Julian Gold, an ex-governor and parent, was involved in creating the



The sensory garden (2015)



outdoor environment and with the help of the youngest children in the school planted a wildflower meadow near the staff room. He also built the willow structure which is still going strong ten years later. Equipment has been added to over the years but the emphasis has always been on creative play and using basic ingredients inventively. Parents Hayley and Rob Gray along with their team have recently created a remarkable addition to the play area with a sensory garden complete with pipe drums and a wooden owl sculpture. Gardening and growing vegetables has been ever popular during the 2000s and the children have delighted in the process of 'seed to salad and sandwich'.

As a Church of England school, local vicars have played a role in the life of the school. Not only are harvest festivals, Easter services and carol services held in the village church but the vicars have also regularly spent time with the children. In the 1990s Rev. Ron Foster came into school to teach R.E. to the oldest children. In 2003 Rev. Ernest Adley retired but he had certainly enlivened assemblies with events such as a fire in a bin. He also donated a piece of church architecture which he brought to school in a wheelbarrow and it can still be seen at the entrance of the office. Rev. Rita Ball was the next incumbent followed by Rev. Elizabeth Birch in 2009. St. Augustine's church plays an important role in the farewell to the Year 6s. School leavers used to climb the church tower and one ex-pupil described the experience: "As part of our leaving gifts, we were treated to a trip onto the church roof, the view was amazing!"



Cycling to school along The Furlong (2012)



A school leaver is lifted off his feet while ringing the church bells but is steadied by Mr Veness. (2014)

With health and safety rearing its head this tradition was adjusted so from 2004 the school leavers had the privilege of ringing the church bells to inform the whole village that the Leavers' Service was about to commence and their days at primary school were complete. As the Year 6s pull on the ropes the teachers are there to steady them so they don't fly through the rafters... a metaphor perhaps?

More recently on the 1 December 2013, the school became an academy freeing it from Local Authority control with greater power to exercise professional judgement about teaching and learning as well as with finances. The school was one of the founder members of Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust.

Annually, the children are welcomed on to the local farm by Julian Gold during lambing season which is one of busiest times of the year but he always gives the children time to ask questions and to hold lambs. Visiting a working farm and seeing lambs being born is a huge bonus of being part of a rural community.

Another highlight is the centuries-old custom of village children converging on Hendred House at midday on Shrove Tuesday to receive the traditional bun and a halfpenny. The children chant:  
"Pit pat, pan's hot,  
Here we come a' shroving  
With a batcher on my back  
A ha'penny's better than nothing!"

They receive their currant bun and a penny (these days) from Edward and Ali Eyston. The custom had arisen from the religious ceremony of fasting during Lent when fats were not to be eaten and were used up in advance by baking buns. One teacher, Mrs Walker, gave Lent an added twist by wearing a different pair of shoes to school for 40 days which impressed her class no end!

Some of the best learning happens outside the classroom and as one pages through old newsletters and reads farewell letters from Year 6s, they repeatedly mention overnight field trips to 'Osmington' and 'Court Hill'. Both trips teach the children about understanding their strengths and weaknesses, persevering through challenges and the joy of success. There are many day trips too with Christmas shopping in Oxford, expeditions to Warwick castle, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Farmer Gow's. The children don't even need to go that far

to have fun whether it is the end-of-year disco or the annual summer fête. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to run a stall and in 2013 it was with great pride that one group of boys with their Nerf gun targets, made more money than many adult stalls with takings of £60.

The Hendreds School is now 155 years old and has seen countless children through its doors and helped to set them on the path of education. Many children, parents and staff have made lifelong friends through this organisation. No school comes without its challenges but what stands out is the commitment and the love of children shown by the staff. In the words of one ex-pupil: "Some of the best times of my life were spent at The Hendreds School and I have some fantastic memories. It was a good school then and it is still a fantastic school now."

The school is dedicated to the children so I would like to dedicate this history to all the staff, the PTA, governors and headteachers who have worked tirelessly for The Hendreds School. I wish I could name them all. Thank you to everyone who shared their memories with me. If you have a story, an anecdote or a correction to this history please email [tessa@casebase.co.uk](mailto:tessa@casebase.co.uk).

Tessa Case (November 2015)



Above: Snells Hall - the original village school building (2015) Below: The Hendreds School (2015)





Headteachers of The Hendreds School

In 1880s and 1890s	Mr George R Stevens
Approx 1900 - 1936	Mr Bertram Everest Newman
1939 - 1945	Mr Bertram Everest Newman
1940s - 1967	Mr Phil Heading
1967 - 1982	Mr Stuart Hepple
1982 - 1986	Mr Phillip Gurney
1986 - 1987	A temporary headteacher
1987 - 1989	Mrs Pam Bowen
From Jan 1990	Ms Elizabeth Tansley

Class Teachers in 2014/15

June 2005	Mr James Veness (Class 5)
Sep 2006	Mr Chris Savage (Class 4)
Sep 2009 - July 2015	Miss Julia Greenwell (Class 2)
Sep 2013 - July 2015	Miss Rebecca Watkins (Class 1)
Sep 2014	Mr Alex Daniels (Class 3)
Sep 2015	Miss Laura Wilson (Class 1)
Sep 2015	Miss Yasmin Humphreys (Class 2)

Chairmen of Governors

1858 - 1868	Alfred Pott
1868 - 1875	Peter Atkinson
1875 - 1890	Thomas Bowles
1890 - 1899	Henry Lewis
1899 - 1907	Joseph Gibbs
1907 - 1917	Cecil Gill
1917 - 1932	Philip Goldingham
1932 - 1947	Charles Fisher
1947 - 1953	Charles Anders
1953 - 1963	Harold Pickles
1963 - 1974	E.Gordon Addenbrooke
1974 - 1983	Graham Friend
1983 - 1991	Ronald Foster
Until 1994	Michael Steel
1994 - 1996	William (Bill) Watkins
1996 - 2000	Martin Spray
2000 - 2006	Keith Mitchell
From 2006	Richard Case

All the chairmen up to and including Rev. Ron Foster were always East Hendred rectors, so I've assumed that the board in St Augustine's church inscribed with the names of rectors is also a list of the Chairmen of Governors at the school. It was only after Rev. Foster that lay people became chairmen.

Acknowledgements and References

East Hendred Bulletins: Jan 1968, July 1968, Spring 2014, Feb 1971, April 1977, April 1978, Oct 1980, Feb 1982, June 1982, June 1983, March 1988, March 1989, April 1990, May 1992

Hendreds School Termly Newsletters: Issues 1 – 42 (Autumn 2000 – Summer 2014)

Annual report of the Governing Body for 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003

The head's reports to the Board of Governors. (approx 1980s)

The board of rectors in St Augustine's church

Berkshire Record Office – Documents about East Hendred CE Primary School

Omnium Gatherum – The Ardington and Lockinge Millennium Book

A descriptive account of East Hendred by E.R Manley (1969)

East Hendred – A Brief Guide by Mahala Adenbrooke (1971)

East Hendred Heritage website – [www.hendred.org](http://www.hendred.org)

Tony Hine's School Days Memoir

Information from Ashstead School – [openairclassroom.org.uk](http://openairclassroom.org.uk)

Conversations with, emails or letters from: Richard Case, Stan Francis, Robin Hine, Francis Morris, Dean Quinn, Margaret and John Sharp, Martin Spray, Pamela Stagg-Jones (formerly Pamela Bowen), Christine Tanner, Elizabeth Tansley, Ann and Ken Taylor, Bill Watkins, Nikki Wilkins

Picture Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who kindly lent me images and gave me permission to use them. Please beware that they are copyright.

Berkshire Record Office

All images on pages 4, 5; 6; Top image on page 9; Bottom image on page 10

Hendreds Primary School

Front cover: 1<sup>st</sup> image, 3<sup>rd</sup> image, 4<sup>th</sup> image; Images on pages 12, 13, 14, 15, 18; Back cover: 1<sup>st</sup> image, 3<sup>rd</sup> image, 4<sup>th</sup> image

Robin Hine and East Hendred Heritage Trust

Front cover: 2<sup>nd</sup> image, 5<sup>th</sup> image; Back cover: 2<sup>nd</sup> image All images on page 3 and page 7 (except book photo); Bottom image on page 9; Top image on page 10

Tessa Case

Book photo on page 7; Images on pages 16, 17



## Transcription of Conveyance Indenture

This document has been fascinating to transcribe although not without its challenges due to its age, fading ink, legibility, archaic wording and last but not least lack of punctuation! I have transcribed it to the best of my ability from the original parchment at Berkshire Record Office.

This Indenture

I **Alfred Pott Rector** of East Hendred in the County of Berks with the consent of **The Right Reverend Samuel Said Bishop of Oxford** Bishop of the Diocese in which East Hendred is situated and patron in eight of his Bishopric of the benefice of East Hendred aforesaid testified by his hand and seal being hereunto affixed under the authority of the acts of the fifty and eighth years of the reign of her majesty for affording facilities for the conveyance and endowment of sites for Schools do hereby freely and voluntarily and without valuable consideration **grant and convey** unto the **Rector and Churchwardens** of East Hendred aforesaid **all** that piece of land situated in East Hendred aforesaid containing one wood little more or less and being part of a pasture granted called Parson's Close belonging to the said Benefice of East Hendred and bounded on the north and forest by pasture land being Glebe on the east by the pubic highway and on the south by an occupation road to the said Glebe which said premises are delineated in the map drawn on the back hereof together with all easements appurtenances and hereditament corporeal and incorporeal belonging thereto or now used therewith and all my Estate right title and interest in or to the same premises **To hold the same unto and to the use of** the said Rector and Churchwardens and their Successors for the purpose of the said acts and **upon trust** to permit the said premises and all buildings thereon erected or to be erected to be for ever hereafter appropriated and used as and for a School for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the parish of East Hendred aforesaid and for no other purpose **And** it is hereby declared that such school shall be at all times upon to the **inspection** of the inspectors of schools for the time being appointed in conformity with the Order in Council bearing date the tenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty and shall always be in unto with and conducted according to the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the National Society for promoting the Education of the Poor in the principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales and subject to and in conformity with the declaration aforesaid such school and premises and the lands and endowment thereof in

respect whereof no other deposition shall be made by the donor shall be controlled and managed in matter following that is to say the **principal officiating minister** for the time being of the said parish shall have the superintendence of the religious and moral instruction of all the scholars attending such school and may use or direct the premises to be used for the purposes of a Sunday School under his exclusive control and management but in all other respects the control and management of such school and premises and of the funds and endowments thereof and the selection appointment and dismissal of the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress and their assistants (except when under the provisions hereinafter mentioned the dismissal of any master mistress or assistant show by awarded by the Bishop of the Diocese or the arbitrators as the case may be) shall be vested in and exercised by a **Committee** consisting of the principal officiating minister for the time being of the said parish his licensed curate or curates if the minister shall appoint him or them to be a member or members of the said committee such of the churchwardens for the time being of the said parish all shall be members of the said church and of four other persons of upon the following shall be the first appointed that is to say Charles Robey William Allin John Allin and Reuben Smith all of East Hendred aforesaid Gentlemen such other persons continuing to be contributors in every year to the amount of twenty shillings each at the least to the funds of the said school and to be members of the Church of England as by law established and either to have a beneficial interest to the extent of a life estate at the least in real property situated in the said parish or to be resident therein And any vacancy which shall occur in the number of the said other persons by death resignation incapacity or otherwise shall be filled up by the election of a person or persons qualified as aforesaid who shall be elected by the majority of votes of such of the contributors during the year current at the time of the election to the amount of ten shillings each at the least to the funds of the said School being members of the said Church of England and qualified as the person to be elected by residence or estate as shall be present at the meeting duly convened for the purpose of the election or not being present thereat shall vote by any paper sent on or before the day of such meeting to the chairman thereof and signed by any such contributor whereon shall be named the person or person whom such contributor shall desire to elect and every contributor qualified to vote shall be enlisted at every such election to give one vote in respect of each such sum of ten shillings but no person shall be entitled to give more than six votes in respect of any sum so contributed **Provided** that no appointment to serve the

Office of Churchwarden not any election as aforesaid shall give or vest any eight to or in any lay person to serve upon the committee or anywise to interfere with the management of the School and the funds and endowments thereof until after he shall have in the presence of the Chairman at a meeting of the Committee made and signed in a book to be kept at the said School a declaration in the manner and form following that is to say "I AB do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I am a Member of the united Church of England and Ireland as by law established" **Provided** also that no default of election nor any vacancy during any current year shall prevent the other Members of the Committee from acting until the vacancy shall by filled up **And it is** hereby declared that no person shall be appointed or continue to be **The Master or Mistress of the School** who shall not be a Member of the Church of England. **And** the committee shall annually select one of the Members thereof to act as **Secretary** who shall keep minutes of the proceedings at the meeting thereof in a book to be provided for that purpose and shall give due notice of all extraordinary meetings to each member of the Committee And the principle officiating minister of the said parish shall be **Chairman of all Meetings of the Committee** when present thereat and at any meetings from which he shall be absent the members attending the same shall appoint one of their number to the Chairman thereof and all matters which shall be brought before any meetings shall be decided by the majority of votes of the members attending the same and voting upon the question And if upon any matter there shall be an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second being the casting vote And in case any difference shall ? between the Minister or Curate and the committee of management hereinbefore mentioned respecting the prayers to be used in the School not being the Sunday School or the religious instruction of the Scholars attending the same or any regulation connected therewith or the exclusion of any book the use of which in the School may be objected to on religious grounds or the dismissal of any teachers from the School on account of his or her defection or unsound instruction of the children in religion the Minister or Curate or any of the Committee may cause a written statement of the matter in difference to be laid before **His Bishop of the Diocese** within which such school shall be situated a copy thereof having been previously communicated to the Committee or Minister or Curate if they or he shall not have been further or privy to the making of the statement respectively and the Bishop may enquire concerning and determine that matter in difference and the decision of the Bishop in writing under his hand thereon when laid before the Committee shall be final and conclusive in the

matter And the Committee of management for the time being is hereby expressly required to take all such measures as may be necessary for immediately conveying the said decision into complete effect And in case any difference other than and except such difference as just described shall arise in the committee of Management the minority thereof being not ever in to number than one third of the whole of the Committee majority make request in writing to **The Lord President of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council for the time being and to the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the said school shall be situated** and thereupon the said Lord President may nominate one of the Inspectors of School appointed as aforesaid to be an arbitrator in the matter in difference and the said Bishop may nominate one of the beneficial Clergyman of his Diocese to be the another arbitrator in the same matter and the arbitrators so nominated as aforesaid shall jointly select one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace being a lay member of the said Church of England as another arbitrator **And** in case they shall not jointly select such third arbitrator within the space of thirty days next ensuring their first meeting the Archbishop of the Province within which the said School shall be situated and the said School President may jointly appoint a third arbitrator **And** the three arbitrators so nominated as aforesaid shall enquire concerning the matter in difference and the award in writing under the hands of the said arbitrators or of any two of them when laid before the Committee shall be final and conclusive in the matter **And** the Committee of management for the time being is hereby expressly required to take all measures as may be necessary for immediately carrying the said award into complete effect **And** is hereby further declared that if the said Bishop or the said arbitrators upon any such reference as aforesaid shall direct an award that any Master Mistress or Teacher in the said School shall be dismissed such direction or award when a copy thereof shall have been served upon the said Master Mistress or Teacher personally or by the same being left at his or her place of abode or at the School aforesaid addressed to the said Master Mistress or Teacher as the case may require shall operate as a dismissal of the said Master Mistress or Teacher so as to prevent him or her thenceforth from having any interest in his or her office or in the said School or premises under or by virtue of this Deed and so as to disqualify him or her from holding thenceforth any right or interest under this deed by virtue of his or her previous or any future appointment **And** the Committee may in the month of January in each year select and appoint a Committee of not more than four ladies being members of the Church of England to assist them in the visitation and management of the girls and infant school which



The History of The Hendreds School 1860 - 2015

ladies Committee shall remain in office until the first day of the same month in the following year when such Committee may be renewed **In witness** whereof the said parties have hereinto set their hands and seals this sixteenth day of September One thousand eight hundred and fifty nine.

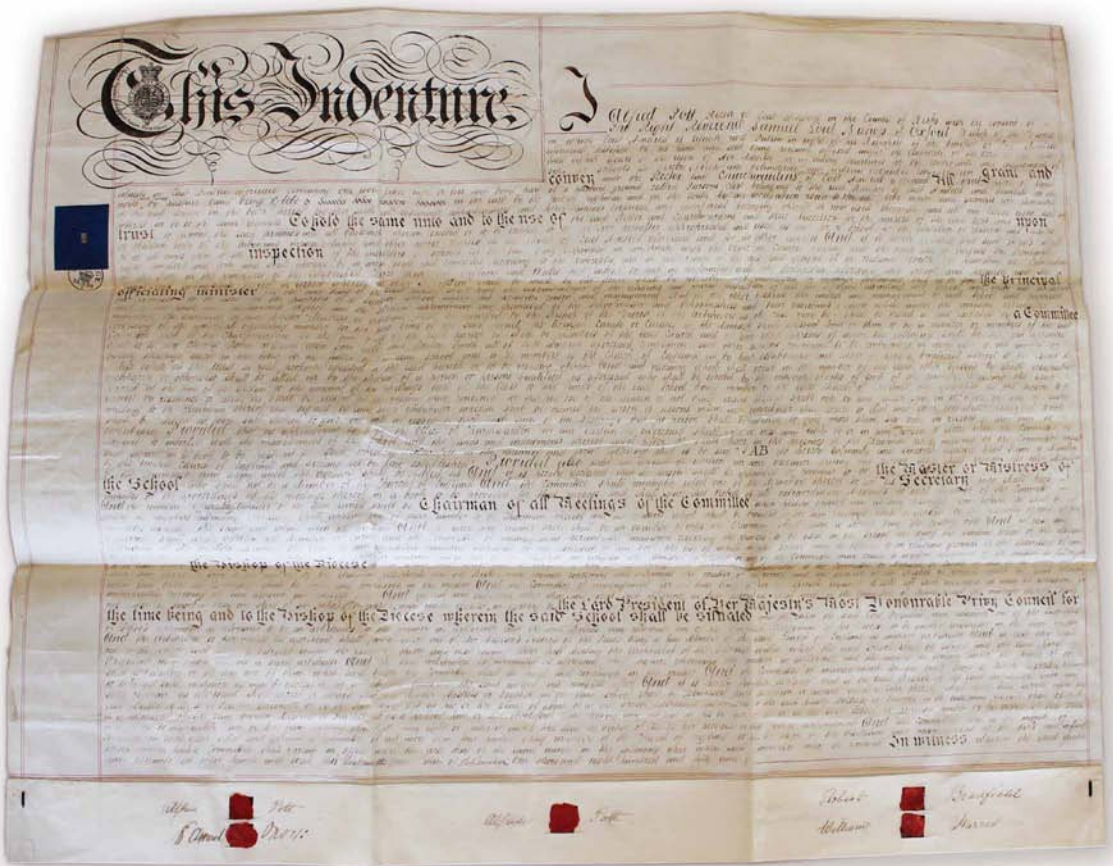
Alfred Pott       Alfred Pott       Robert Bradfield  
Samuel Oxon             William Harris

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the said Alfred Pott and Samuel, Lord Bishop of Oxford in the presence of William Francis Wilberforce, Clerk in Holy Orders of Liddington Street, Reading

Signed sealed and delivered by the said Robert Bradfield and William Harris in the presence of Charles Smith Clerk in Holy Orders East Hendred Berks.

We the undersigned being three beneficial Clergyman in the Diocese of Oxford, certify that the land herein conveyed does not exceed one acre in extent.  
William Harley Vicar of Steventon, Berks  
William Bather Vicar of Wantage, Berks  
George Purdice Perpetual Curate of Challow

16 September 1859







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