

REVISITED
IN OCTOBER 2024

LOOKING BACK
AT LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL



The following pages tell of a review of items held at Sherborne Museum, Dorset History Centre and in private collections that led to the staging of an exhibition *Looking Back at Lord Digby's School* in 2015. To accompany the exhibition a booklet of memories and further information was compiled and this is ongoing as more of those with relevant memories to share come forward.

On the following pages we go back to January 2014 as the series of events began to unfold.

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Introduction

Lord Digby's School - Archive and Exhibition

Following the success of last year's temporary exhibition at Sherborne Museum and series of articles entitled '*Looking Back at Foster's School*', this year we are planning to repeat the whole process but this time we will be '*Looking Back at Lord Digby's School*'.



I have met with Pauline Batstone, former pupil and now chairman of the Old Girls' Association and June Helson, former pupil and teacher at the school and plans are now well under way for the opening of an exhibition just before Easter. The exhibition will then run for a year. Around Founder's Day in May the window of the museum will also be used to display various larger items of memorabilia. I have listed all the items that are located amongst the various collections in the museum consisting mainly of photographs, items of uniform, honours boards and other substantive pieces. Much of the paperwork was sent to the Dorset County Records Office and a list of these items is also held by the museum. Various other pieces of memorabilia are held by many of the old girls themselves and the museum is lucky to be able to have use of some of these to add to the display. As with the exhibition for Foster's School there will be a series of articles on the school. These articles, it is hoped, will 'grow' as old girls of the school come forward to share their memories. In the case of Foster's school, which started out as half a dozen chapters, it eventually grew to eighteen by the close. So the challenge is on can the girls equal or even exceed this!

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to share memories of their time at the school.

Barbara Elsmore
January 2014
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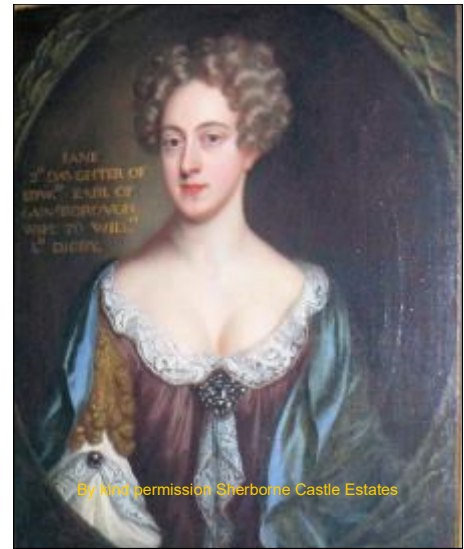


LOOKING BACK 1. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

In putting together this brief history of the school I feel distinctly underqualified. When I was asked to put on the Foster's School exhibition I had a strong connection as my father and grandfather had both attended the school. I also spent several months in the company of two Old Fosterians as together we sifted through the archive of items and documents that had been deposited at Sherborne Museum. There was also the former history teacher Mr McKay's informative book *Foster's - The story of a Dorset School* for reference. When it came to Lord Digby's School I had no background knowledge whatsoever but luckily for me I had access to a copy of Miss H C Thomson's excellent book *Lord Digby's School* which enabled me to put together a very brief history for the exhibition which I hoped would introduce many of the visitors to the former school and would not have glaring errors that would be spotted by returning old girls - no mean feat for me to undertake!

Barbara Elsmore

- Lady Jane Digby 1664-1733, Daughter of Lord Gainsborough 'Had a little school in Sherborne'
- Lord William Digby 1660-1752 founded the school 'To the memory of his lady' in 1743
- Foundation House in Westbury 'Newly erected in 1743' Tablet added in 1836 at a cost of £2 by George Crawford
- In 1884 following the Elementary Education Act the school became a Public Elementary School with fees of 9d a week.
- 1885-1905 is a turbulent time for the Headmistress, Miss Harriet Clarke, as the school is always short of funds. Miss Clarke's time is sympathetically recorded in some detail by Miss Thomson.
- In 1887 with 75 pupils and with a view to attracting more together with the need for better working conditions the school



By kind permission Sherborne Castle Estates



By kind permission Sherborne Castle Estates

LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL (FOUNDED 1743) HEADMISTRESSES	
MARY GAYLARD	1885 H. S. CLARKE
1770 MARY BISHOP	1905 S. E. DUXFIELD
1770 FRANCES SOPER	1911 I. P. ASHWELL
1774 ELEANOR GAYLARD	1917 M. M. BILLINGER
1808 ANN LONGMAN	1942 H. C. THOMSON
1812 ANN NOAKE	1967 M. J. DITMAS
1851 SOPHIA HUGHES	1979 Mrs. S. M. HILL
1855 THEODOSIA THOMAS	
1856 PRISCILLA BRETT	
1867 MARY KENERSTONE	

moved over the road into Westbury House.

- In 1892 continuing financial difficulties force the school back to the foundation house and the schools inspector renews his campaign for better conditions.
- In 1898 the school moves to the Old St Swithin's laundry in Newland. The Schools Inspector reports favourably on the building which could hold '*140 Children to my satisfaction*'
- In 1905 the school becomes a secondary school with a leaving age of 16 with fees at £2 for day girls and £10 for boarders per term. Free places by examination.
- A pupil teacher centre opens. The Board of Governors is now jointly established for Foster's and Lord Digby's Schools.
- In 1907 a Kindergarten for boys and girls from the age of four opens in the Macready Institute.
- 1907 Onwards the Fleur-de-Lys first appears. The Old Girls' Association is established and the numbers steadily increase. In 1920 there are 173 pupils of whom 37 are boarders.
- 1921 Ransome House is rented for the Headmistress, Miss Billinger and some of the boarders. Miss Sparke also runs the preparatory department, open to boys as well as girls from here.
- In 1925 Miss Billinger buys Stonegarth in The Avenue and runs it herself as the boarding house. Miss Sparke set up and ran the preparatory school—Stonegarth—in the adjoining building now known as Little Stonegarth. Former pupils remember the door, with a heavy curtain between the two buildings and being summoned to see Miss Billinger on the other side of the curtain.
- In 1931 on 9 November the much awaited and planned for move into Sherborne House took place.
- In 1944 following the Butler Education Act the school became Lord Digby's Grammar School for Girls, fees are abolished and entrance is via the 11+.
- In 1992 The school closed as comprehensive education is established in Sherborne



LOOKING BACK 2.
NORA DIBBLE NÉE SYMES
A SCHOOLGIRL IN THE

At some time in the mid 1980s Nora Symes wrote a substantial record of her childhood and schooldays in Sherborne and a copy of these memoirs is held by June Helson. Nora had a real gift for remembering details and here is an extract concerning her schooldays:

I was born in the Woolmington Hotel on the Thursday pre-ceding Pack Monday Fair in 1914. My grandfather, Edmund King, was the licensee and one of the strictest teetotallers and anti-smokers of all time. My mother, Lily King, attended Lord Digby's School when it was in Westbury. I remember my first interview with Miss Sparke, head of the preparatory department of LDS, in her sitting room on the right hand side of the front door of Ransom House. I loved her from that moment. My first teachers were Miss Agnes Austin of Truro, Miss Wakefield, and I think Peggy Hazzard; fellow classmates were Joan Rickard, Leslie Page, Lilla Squires, Molly Brice and Molly Perham. Ransom House was a wonderful place. There was a dolls' house in the big room and the percussion instruments were kept in a cupboard. The 'big doll' remained in Miss Sparke's sitting room. On Pack Monday horses were tied along the

railings of Ransom House so we always had a holiday - most necessary for the best teacher in the world could not have held our attention then.

To my grandfather I owe more than I can ever say. It was he who taught me at an early age to read, to draw and to arrange flowers. It was no effort to me to learn the names of flowers, for he called them by their proper names, as we picked them. He gave me a patch of garden and showed me how to plant seeds, take cuttings and graft. No wonder I have loved growing things all my life. My father was far from well when he came home from the war, having fought in France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Egypt and India and survived a gas attack; jobs were scarce and money was short, so grandfather was able to retain his guardianship of me. This continued until I was 10 years old, when grandfather had a stroke and died. Soon after this sad change in our lives came scholarship time for me. There were two governors' scholarships from the Prep, one to Foster's and the other to LDS. Joan Rickard was awarded the governors' scholarship and I gained a county scholarship to Miss Sparke's delight. She seldom showed emotion, but on this occasion she sent for my mother and, telling us both of my success, put her arms around me and said *'I am so pleased for you, dear, so pleased!'*

I already knew 'Big School', as we called it, from the regular Friday morning prayers to which we marched down in crocodile from



Here is the school building in Newland, previously known as St Swithin's laundry, which was home to the school from 1898 until 1931. Nora describes the layout of the building in great detail. It was later taken over by Dewey's Garage and finally demolished. The site is now the car park for Waitrose

Ransom House, presumably to accustom us to the change we should face later on. We were always inspected very critically before setting off and I used to look nervously at the 'Big Girls' as they filed into prayer. The tallest and most important were called Prefects. I remember many of their names to this day: Louie Barnes, Freda Salmon, Una Dodge, the Cowling sisters, Eva Weiste, Mary Penny and many more.

The old building that housed Big School had long since been razed to the ground. But there it still stands foursquare in my memory, on the south side of Newland and about 100 yards along from Cheap Street. I could walk about it blindfold. On the left a long one-storey outbuilding held racks of coats, hats, shoe-bags, gym kit and hockey sticks. Further down the passage were the kitchen, stock room and small music room, all rather dimly lit. In the main house Miss Billinger's room was on the left of the front door and the staff room on the right. The left-hand room was the Holy of

Holies and you trembled if you were invited to enter it. The staff room, on the other hand, was a cheerful friendly room, full usually of laughter and chatter. At the far end of the entrance hall a doorway lead into a glass-covered veranda which joined the cloakroom corridor. The staircase lead up to the library and two form rooms, one of which opened into the art room, Miss Wickham's sanctum. This room had a great charm and character all its own and Miss Wickham's. There were always pieces of handwork lying about and some of the better drawings and paintings on the walls, showing less artistic pupils what could be achieved. It was always a high honour to have your work on the wall and still higher to have it selected for exhibition on speech day. At the back of the entrance hall there was a flight of stone steps leading down into the playground; this was bordered on the south and west by old stone walls, whilst on the east was an extension to the house with access from the veranda. This contained the main hall, with a



Front Row L-R: ?, ?, Diana Hunt, Mollie or Elsie Parlaine, Doris Kitzerow, ?, Mark Earnshaw, Mary Kenniston, Mary Stretton, ? (10 all cross legged)

Second Row: Winnie Alford, Freda Framp, Eva Weiste, Peggy Henstridge, **Nora Symes**, Phillis Waygood, Joan Trevett, Dorothy Wise, Freda Malins, Elsie Lane, Madge Diment, Muriel Freeman (12 all seated).

Third Row: Molly Chant, Nancy Wise, Irene Smith, Lillian Hodgson, ?, Ivy Knight Mary Penny, Pat Hutton, Dulcie Hunt, Joan Rickard, Marie Whittle, Minnie Louch, Marjorie Rogers, Josephine Baker, ?, ?, Muriel Hunt, Phyllis Brett. (19 standing)
Back Row ; Kathleen Sibley, Annabel Bird, Nancy Morrish, Kathleen Clothier, ? Gladys Samways, Olga Barnes, Phyllis Chant, Eva Sibley, Marjorie Phillpot,

THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CAST OF THE SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF 'MAKE BELIEVE' BY A. A. MILNE IN 1923 OR 1924.

NORA IS PICTURED FIFTH FROM LEFT IN THE SECOND ROW .

SHE SAYS OF HER PART:

'I played Baby Bear just because I happened to be the smallest in the school—most belittling!'

stage at one end and a piano. Here Miss Billinger stood to take prayers each morning. After morning assembly a heavy glass screen moving on rollers was pushed across the middle of the hall, dividing it into two classrooms.

The windowsills were wide enough to hold tanks of newts, jars of tadpoles, vases of wildflowers and the like. I remember one particularly blowy morning when a gust of wind blew over a jar of this frogspawn in the middle of prayer I had to creep out and, gathering the slimy mass up in my hands, slipped it back into its bowl.

The gymnasium was a separate building to the rear of the main one - small but not badly equipped for those days, with wall bars, climbing ropes and a horse. By climbing the bars one had a wonderful view over the marketplace to Foster's playground. Above the hall were two more form rooms, one of which was Miss Clough's domain, the Science lab. Under her I was utterly and completely happy. We understood each other and were interested in the same things. Phyllis Allgood, with whom I remained into the upper sixth, Phyllis Edwards and Molly Gay, friends from Westbury days, Sybil Haynes, perhaps the cleverest of us all, Ida Mitchell, another good friend of mine, Peggy New who died prematurely as the result of a motor bicycle accident and dear Joan Parsons, the friend of everyone. Also Betty Patch, who skipped a form and got into the sixth a year ahead of me, Joy Sharpe, Joan Trevett and Dorothy Wise, whose father was the headmaster of the Abbey school and who later ran a very successful Preparatory School of her own. One of my most vivid memories of that era is the French oral examination when Miss Dew was very worried at the lack of small talk of the girl alphabetically ahead of me and exhorted me to talk my head off which I did to such an extent that the examiner could hardly get a word in edgeways.

Geography was my *bête noire*, especially the physical part, dealing with pressure lines

and contours and latitudes and longitudes. I was terrified too of Miss Rendle, though my husband who was taught mathematics by her at Foster's maintains she was a splendid teacher. Fortunately for me, Miss Clough took Junior Maths at LDS, otherwise I might not have been any good at that either. Miss Rendle's tragically early death brought Miss Cox as a temporary substitute. This lady excited great interest among us, as she was a survivor of the Titanic disaster. Many were the tales she told us of her travels but unfortunately she had no idea of maintaining discipline and we learned little Geography in her lessons. Miss Rendle's death was soon followed by Miss Clough's departure to be married and in their places came Miss Williams and Miss Steeds.

Mr Wearden, Abbey organist and music master to our two grammar schools, taught us to sing. How he made us sing! He was a stern disciplinarian and never allowed us to take liberties. To him it was quite simply a question of courtesy.

A great feature of school life in those days was the existence of clubs - French, nature, history and art clubs, all run on a voluntary basis by the individual teachers concerned, Miss Dew, Miss Clough and then Miss Williams, Miss Whitworth and Miss Wickham. I belonged to them all and derived much benefit and encouragement from doing so. At French club meetings we were supposed to talk French the whole time. We used to have splendid community singing too, organised by Miss Dew and Miss Whitworth. I believe that all these activities were run out of school hours. Even staff meetings were held after school. I never remember the staff going on strike or complaining of being underpaid. Yet salaries were by no means high in those days. I know, because I was a teacher myself. The result is that they are remembered with love and gratitude for the training they gave and the standards they set.

How much too do I owe to Mr Littleton Powys, chairman of the governors for most of my school life and a great lover of English literature and of natural history? To encourage interest in the latter he offered prizes for various competitions that he himself had set. For the First Finds competition we had to see how early we could find specimens of wild flowers and bring them live to school, where they were recorded, with name, date and name of the finder, in a special notebook. Just imagine a batch of eager young first-finders arriving at the door of the science lab on a Monday each clutching a paper bag containing the first primrose, daisy, celandine, chickweed or whatever, all to be checked in the famous notebook. Many started off but fell by the wayside. Marjorie Clinton, Ida Mitchell and I never flagged. Ida and I used to go on long foraging walks together, each keeping a strict eye on the other, lest she steal a special treasure. I never beat Marjorie naming and mounting wildflowers and one year I succeeded in collecting over 600 specimens. I owe my grandfather a great debt in that he taught to me the names of many wild flowers, as I learned to speak, so that the task was less arduous than it might have been. I won Mr Powys's prize in this section for about four years running.

Speech Day was always a landmark in the school year. Preparations for it seemed to be as intense as for external examinations. We practised choral works under Mr Weardon as if for the Albert Hall!

Almost my final memory of a very happy school life comes from a day near the end of my lower sixth year. Phyllis Allgood and I were acting on our own in a scene from Hamlet (one of our set text for Higher School Certificate) with all of the realism at our command immediately over the staff room and, just as Hamlet (Phyllis) was about to plunge his dagger (a ruler) through Polonius (me behind the window curtain), Miss Billinger walked in! We explained that the noise was of Shakespeare's making, not ours, and she accepted our explanation, though, we felt,

with reservations. Then she asked me to come down to her study. I followed in some trepidation, for even in the sixth form one was still in awe of her. But it was a different matter altogether. Sherborne House and its beautiful garden, which had been under negotiation for the past year or two, were at last to be ours, and there and then, much to my amazement, she handed me the key of the gate. It was like being given the key to 'The Secret Garden'. Miss Billinger explained that she was expecting a visit from some of the governors and, handing me a pair of clippers and telling me I need to not hurry, could anything have been more understanding? She asked me to gather enough flowers and foliage for her study, the staff room and the hall and on no account to 'cut them short'. She loved tall expansive flower arrangements with plenty of foliage, as I do to this day. I went quietly over, without a word to anybody, and wandered around registering every tree and shrub. It was a wonderful morning.

The move followed that autumn and I remember how we carried over all the library books by hand. How proud we were of the hall and staircase with their famous murals, of the library furnished by Miss Billinger as her gift to the school, with a complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, given by the Old Girls' Association. I loved the kitchen too, which was in the old wing of the house. It was there that Bunty Burns and I had to prepare lunch for some distinguished guests, and Miss Palmer, not yet with us full-time, came down from her Domestic Science Centre to show us how to poach salmon and how to make mayonnaise and cheese straws. We even made scones in case they stayed to tea.

These are some of the very personal and individual ways in which we were prepared for life and which seem to me impossible in the much larger schools today, writing this account of a Sherborne childhood has made me very conscious of the lasting influence of school days spent in

this small historic town. One learnt to value teachers, both of family and school, whose main interest and objective was the future well-being of those they cared for. Starting to write has shown me the truth of the saying that when one door closes another opens, and I should like to end with a quotation from Wordsworth's *Lines above Tintern Abbey* quoted in Mr Powys's autobiography *The Joy of It*, and which he wrote in a book he gave me: "Fair Nature never doth betray the heart that loves her".



MISS BILLINGER, APPROPRIATELY PICTURED WITH HER ARMS FULL OF FLOWERS, AND MISS SPARKE



V1 FORM WITH MISS BILLINGER
NORA, PHIL ALGOOD,
EILEEN STRADLING, BETTY

SINCE PUBLICATION THESE THREE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SENT BY ARTHUR DIBBLE, NORA'S ELDEST SON.

BELOW IS THE CHRISTENING OF RODNEY DIBBLE WITH NORA AND HUSBAND RAYMOND AND ARTHUR, THE LITTLE BOY CENTRE FRONT AND WITH MISS DEW AND MISS WHITWORTH BACK LEFT.

LEFT NORA ON THE RIGHT



LOOKING BACK 3
RUBY MOORES NÉE OXFORD
1929-1935 (COMPILED IN 2003)

My memories of Sherborne House, cover a timespan of seventy two years, as a pupil of Lord Digby's School (LDS), as a member of the Old Girls' Association, as a parent and lastly as a visitor to the exhibitions held in the building itself.

I became a pupil at LDS in 1930 after gaining a scholarship from the Abbey School. The first school building was the Palladian style house across the road from Sherborne House, which later became a garage and finally part of Somerfield's car park.

We were told that we would be moving into the big house behind the high brick wall, and that it was a very special building. And so it was in 1931 that Sherborne House became the home of LDS, until its closure in 1992, over sixty years.

I well remember my days spent in this lovely building. We always used the West Gate entrance and the back door which opened through a short passage to our cloakrooms. We all had blue shoe bags which hung on our pegs - named, of course. They contained house shoes and gym shoes. We were not allowed to go through the door into the Hall until we had changed into house shoes!

We were totally in awe of the beautiful staircase, with its Thornhill Mural. We were not allowed to touch the mural, talk or run on the stairs, and we had to wait on the landings, rather than pass each other on the stairs - a prefect would stand at the top of the stairs to make sure we obeyed, and often our Headmistress, Miss Billinger, whose room was at the bottom of the stairs, would appear at her door to check on us. We were taught to respect the building, and we did.

The library was a room of such beauty, with its carved fireplaces, polished tables and rows of shelves, filled with books, that I am sure it must have encouraged us to read and learn.

The first form room I was taught in was on the ground floor, with the large mirror. We sat sideways on to it, and the mistress had her desk and stood in front of the carved fireplace.

At the top of the stairs there is a small room which in my time was the sixth form room. Then the assembly hall where every morning we had a short service. A senior girl or Miss Dew played the piano for us all to walk into the hall quietly and sedately, as I remember. On Armistice Day we had a special service, and some of us felt that the day had some special significance for our headmistress, as she always seemed a little tearful.

Through the assembly hall there is another classroom, with a door opening to the fire escape.

Before going up to the next floor there is a door to the left which leads to the art room which was wonderfully light and airy. On the next floor there are more classrooms and the staff room.

My last year was spent in the smaller of these rooms, as we were small in number, about sixteen, if I remember rightly.

There is a big landing on the top floor, which was often used as a sick bay.

The domestic science room was on the ground floor (now one of the exhibition rooms) and the scullery appears to be much as it was then. The room had wooden rectangular tables which had to be scrubbed at the end of each lesson, even the bottom of the legs!

The room that is used as a first exhibition area, was our science laboratory with rows of benches with sinks and Bunsen burners - our science mistress, Miss Williams had a bench on the raised platform with a sink and her teaching equipment. Around our room were glass cases for the test-tubes, retorts, pipettes

etc, and some had specimens for the botany and biology lessons.

The shed now used by the Amateur Players was our bicycle shed where we stored our hockey sticks, netball and tennis nets. The small room next to the shed, was the music room, where Miss Chaffin taught piano, and Miss Williams taught violin. These were extra to ordinary lessons and had to be paid for as were elocution lessons (which I was told to take, and did for one term, because of my then rather high pitched Dorset accent - one term was all my parents could afford).

Our headmistress was Miss Billinger, Miss Dew taught French, Miss Whitworth taught English and history, Miss Steeds taught mathematics, followed by Miss Strickland. Miss Williams taught the science subjects and geography and Miss Wickham taught needlecraft. Miss Palmer taught cookery and Miss Woods followed by Miss Duxfield taught gym and games. Singing was taught by the Abbey organist Mr Wearden - who would play a few discords to quieten us and he would shout '*Sl...lence*', before a lesson. We wore navy blue gym tunics, white blouses and a school tie in Winter with black woollen or later Lisle stockings. Navy blue knickers with white linings (we did gym in our knickers!) and we played hockey in our gym tunics! In summer we wore blue Tricolene dresses with a tie. They had long sleeves with separate white collars and cuffs which obviously became soiled and had to be changed several times during the week. We had blazers with the school Fleur-de-Lys badge in white on the pocket, In winter we had velour hats with a hat band in blue, white and navy and in summer a Panama hat with a hatband. Hats had to be worn whenever we went outside the school gates.

We played tennis on a court behind the building and a new gymnasium was erected. We played tennis and netball in the paddock opposite Sherborne House, but we walked to Tinney's Lane for hockey. We were divided into 'Houses' - Britons had blue ribbons,



JOAN PLOWMAN, BETTY PAGE AND RUBY OXFORD

Danes had yellow, Saxons, had green and Romans black and red, which were all attached to the left shoulder of our tunics - we gained points for our House for games and good work.

Miss Wickham had an after school art club where we did all kinds of interesting craft work. I particularly remember painting wooden boxes, with clear varnished, and they made pretty gifts for our mothers. It was dark one evening when we walked back down the drive to go home and some of us thought we saw a ghostly coach and horses - a fantasy of course - but we took to our heels and ran!

I have a vivid memory of my French oral exam for school certificate. It was in the sixth form room - the windows look out across the town towards the Abbey. The examiner took me to the window and asked

me to describe what I saw in French - it wasn't at all what I had revised!

I left school in 1935 and didn't return to Sherborne House until the 1950s when I joined the Old Girls' Association and I was then able to return annually for a reunion. They were all held in the afternoon and tennis matches took place between old girls and present pupils.

In 1957 I became a parent of a pupil as our daughter took the 11+ and gained a place at the school. In the intervening years there had been some changes in classroom arrangements, and, of course, in the staff and also in the uniform worn for games and gym. During my daughter's school years I attended with my husband most of the events to which parents were invited and expected to attend and Sherborne House became a familiar place to me once more. My daughter left school in 1964, but I have remained a member of the Old Girls' Association until the

Ruby's daughter Susan Moores now Hardy can be seen visiting the exhibition in Looking Back 17.

present day, and for the last twenty two years, their honorary treasurer. We have been able to hold our reunions there until the school closed in 1992. We used the school Roneo duplicating machine for our annual magazine and collated the sheets in the library (on all those polished tables!)

In 2000 the Trustees allowed those of us that attended that reunion to have a photograph taken on the front steps.

In recent years the house now being an exhibition centre has become somewhere memories flood back. As I walk into the cloakroom area, now cleared of its racks and pigeon holes, I can see the rows of blue shoe bags hanging there, ready and waiting.

Through all these years until 2001, one thing has remained constant, the affection with which we were all held by our wonderful French mistress, Miss Faith Dew. We all loved her dearly, sadly she died in her 100th year. We miss her greatly at our reunions.

Ruby Moores née Oxford 1929-1935



OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION REUNION 12 MAY 2001

LOOKING BACK 4
PAMELA LODDER
1938-1942

I started at LDS in May 1938 because my parents moved to Lillington and I was transferred from Parkstone Grammar School. By this time the school had been in Sherborne House for about seven years. I entered into Form II which was on the ground floor and Miss Dew was our form mistress. The third and fourth years were on the first floor across from the School Hall, the fifth form was on the ground floor and the sixth was at the top of the stairs. We were told that Robert Browning wrote *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* in the sixth form room. He had been a friend of William Macready who had lived in Sherborne House for a decade in the 1880s. William Macready was generally acknowledged to be the greatest Shakespearian actor of the Victorian Age and he certainly had some influential friends.

Summer dresses were blue and the white collars had to be stitched on. Speech Day dresses were made of tussore and were worn with a tie. I was able to get into mine for my confirmation in the Abbey. Canon Lovett gave us our talks at school prior to being confirmed by the Bishop of Sherborne, Bishop Digby. *(NB the speech day dresses are intriguing - tussore is a type of silk making this a very special dress and I wonder could this silk have come from the silk mill in Sherborne? - more research is needed)*. Dresses were changed to red and white check with black lines or to similar style in blue. There were also some quite different styles with white binding as I remember. Originally in the Winter I wore a pleated gymslip but these were changed at some point to heavy navy pinafore dresses made by a firm at the top of Cheap Street. These were worn with white blouses and pullovers with a band of blue, white and navy at the neck. For gym we wore

loose blue sleeveless dresses. In the winter we wore navy blue hats and in the summer Panamas; both would be trimmed with hatbands and worn at all times.

We went to Sherborne School swimming baths and also to the school for our lunches although several of us took packed lunches which we ate in the Cookery Room. The Cookery Teacher was Miss Palmer who was Irish. We bought the recipe books, written by Battersea Polytechnic Domestic Science Training College, costing 1s 6d. The first edition was in 1914 and we had to make a cloth cover for our personal copies of this book. We had to take in ingredients for the recipes that we made and I remember carrying home a rhubarb and sago pudding in my bicycle basket, not an easy feat!

I well remember going to buy material to make a blouse for needlework classes because while I was in the shop the siren went and I had to go into the shelter with a friend, Edna, and her brother who was a Foster's schoolboy. The nearest bomb was unexploded, but part of Phillips, the Half Moon and the shop in between, where we found out later the owner had been killed, were all badly damaged. My bicycle had been against Lloyds Bank but was blown over and covered with dust. I can still feel the pavement slabs moving and I remember how we clung together and felt completely numbed by the event. The three of us travelled up Sherborne Hill together before I turned for Lillington and I burst into tears when I got home. Edna and her brother went on to Glanvilles Wootton. I tried to go to school the next day not knowing that Newland was impassable and that the school would be closed for three weeks. I heard later that some of my form were in the basement of the school making puppets when the bombing raid happened. The tennis courts were hit and the school windows were blown out. Unfortunately Miss Billinger, the headmistress, was injured and Miss Dew became acting head while she was ill. I also remember that members of the Red Cross came into the school to give us First Aid

lectures. Trenches were dug near the gym, were we had previously undertaken Country Dancing, but I do not think we went there very often.

Some pupils boarded at Stonegarth, in the Avenue. Others cycled in or came by train from Sturminster Newton, Hazelbury Bryan, Crewkerne and Gillingham.

Anne and Janet Betten had a famous uncle - Sir Donald Woolfit (the actor) and he came and talked to us once. Their grandfather had come to Sherborne for work on the Abbey. Another daughter Molly went to LDS and later returned to teach and the two of us kept in contact over the years. Some years later I went to nurse Mr Betten at his daughter and son-in-law's flat in Ashburton and while I was

there I saw a picture of the Conduit hanging on the wall.

I do not think we were a naughty form except perhaps in our attitude to a Maths teacher, Miss Leach. Unfortunately she did not instill in us much Maths and only four of us passed the school certificate. As I only had a pass in English Language I did not get exemption from Matric otherwise I had good results, pleasing Miss Williams with my marks for Geography. Mrs Dawson, the mother of the singer Peter Dawson, taught us English Literature, I think, for about two terms.

About a year after I arrived at LDS one of the large school photographs was taken and I have enjoyed seeing it again and jotting down these memories.

Pamela Lodder 1938-1942



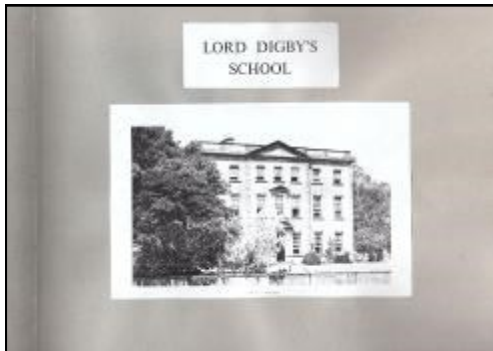
HERE IS THE NORTH SIDE OF NEWLAND FOLLOWING THE BOMBING RAID AND INSET ON THE RIGHT—TODAY.



LOOKING BACK 5.
JUNE HELSON NÉE PIKE
1940-1947

A few years ago a group of "Old Girls" was invited to attend a course at Sherborne House to learn some interesting ways of writing and making books. I based mine on the letters of the words:

"LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL".



In 1743 'Good' Lord Digby, at the request of his wife, started a school for twelve poor girls where they would learn to read and write and do 'work of any plain sort'.

The school was housed in what is now the Britannia Inn, later moving across the road to Wessex House, back again to the Britannia, then to a house known originally as St Swithin's laundry (later Dewey's Garage now demolished and part of Waitrose car park) and finally in 1931 into Sherborne House.

Girls from the school made a fabric collage of these buildings, also showing the sort of clothing the pupils might have worn, and this is now in the Sherborne Museum.

Since at least 1917 there has been an Old Girls' Association. At present there are approximately 400 members throughout the world and a magazine is produced every 18 months to share their news. Each year, on the second Saturday in May old girls meet for a service, either at Castleton Church or the Abbey. (Since the year 2000 this has been

together with Old Boys of Foster's school) followed by lunch and the AGM.

A Register was called each morning and these are among the members of my form from 1940 -1945:

Brenda, Vera, Betty P, Monica, Rachel, Edith, Ethel, Christine, Trick (Pat), Emma, June H, Nora, Barbara, Trish (Pat), Kathleen, Jean R, Edna, Jill, Gillian, June P, Sheila, Sylvia, Sybil, Enid, Jean N, Rosemary, Muriel, Nancy, Yvonne.

Miss Dew was a member of staff from

December 1924 until her retirement in the 1960s and is the main reason why we have such a flourishing Old Girls' Association. She kept in touch by letter with hundreds of former pupils, remembering also their whole families and wrote the magazine notes right up to her death just before her hundredth birthday.



LEFT: MISS DEW

Dancing and drama were much enjoyed - we wore blue Greek style dresses for dance - elasticated at the waist and split at the lower side seams.

In 1946 Miss Haddlesey composed music called 'Atlantic' to which we danced. The Art department painted a huge background which filled the end of the gym.

Indoor shoes were always worn as soon as we came into the school building. We had blue shoe-bags which were hung on our pegs. In the early 1970s three schooldays were

devoted to studying the **G**reeks. The Olympic 'flame' was carried into the gym to start the proceedings. We had lectures, films, and exhibition, drama and dancing. All pupils learnt the Greek alphabet and some learned the Lord's prayer in Greek. Visiting parents and pupils enjoyed eating 'Greek honey cakes' at break, and moussaka was served at lunchtime. Several years later a similar few days were set aside while we studied American life.

The school **B**ell holds memories for many pupils. It would be rung by the Head Girl at the beginning of Assembly (as the Head Mistress moved up the stairs) and at the end of lessons - having excused herself a few moments earlier from any lesson she was attending. The bell is now used at the Old Girls' AGM to silence the chatter!

Yule Tide or Christmas meant carol-singing from the little red 'Oxford Book of Carols' in the assembly hall. Also a carol service in the Abbey and groups singing around the town collecting for 'house' or 'form' charities.

Former Head Girls in Miss Thomson's era were invited to join **'S**taff and some Governors to a candlelit tea in the library after the carol service.

Tea was followed by games and charades in

the assembly hall.

Science was taught in the junior school and to those in the senior school who did not study cookery. The science lab was in the old part of the building below the caretaker's flat.

When extensions to the cloakroom were built, with a new lab above to accommodate extra pupils, including those for Foster's, the old lab became the geography room. Later, with a new geography room in the Orchard site it converted to being a lab again, but furnished with stacking tables instead of solid benches and was also used as a form room.

Miss Palmer was 'Queen of the kitchen' for many years - we have memories of learning



MISS PALMER 'QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN' IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN

Cookery from her and being told to scrape around the basin because there was enough mixture there for another cake!

Years later Miss Thompson would come in at the end of lessons to see what had been produced and would enquire "is there anything there from my supper?"

Hockey was playing on the pitch at Foster's at the end of Tinney's Lane, which in those days was not surfaced.

Some pupils composed a poem:-

'I really think we should complain,
About the state of Tinney's Lane
For never should a game of hockey
Involve a road so rough and rocky
The privileged few in the hockey team
Drive by in Miss Haddlesey's car of
green

We won the district shield one year so there were great celebrations.

The school **H**ouses were:

Britons, Danes, Romans and Saxons.

The **O**rchard site was acquired so that

temporary classrooms could be erected for Canteen, History, Geography, French and Home Economics. This necessitated making of the 'hole in the wall' - the beautiful brick wall on the east side of the garden.

We had many occasions for walking past the herbaceous border which was always so colourful.

'A Hundred Years **O**ld' was one of the school plays produced in the 1940s and many of us have memories of Jean Norris as 'Papa Juan'.

With a greater link with Foster's it was easier to cast male and female parts. Some of the plays produced were: Othello, Macbeth, Pygmalion, Patience, Midsummer Night's Dream, Murder at the Vicarage, Hotel Paradiso, Merchant of Venice, The Dear Departed, Royal Hunt of the Sun.

The **L**ibrary was always very special place in which to be allowed to work. It was also used for staff meetings in the 1970s.

I remember singing the school hymn 'Lift up your Hearts' to the tune 'Woodlands' by Walter Greatorex (1877-1949) and I have many, many happy memories of my time at the school as a pupil 1944-1947



JUNE IS
PICTURED ON
THE RIGHT

**LOOKING BACK 6.
MADELINE HUNT NÉE
OSTLER 1941-1948**

I went to LDS in 1941 aged eleven and a scholarship girl. Before being accepted I had to attend an interview with the Headmistress and her deputy. I remember it as if it were yesterday! I was given a book and asked to read aloud..Having done so, I was told to put down the book and the Headmistress began to question me on what I had read. My response was *"I'm sorry, but I haven't the faintest idea - you see although I've been reading, I've been looking around the room at the interesting pictures, and out of the window at the lovely view of the garden and Sherborne - especially the Abbey - but if you give me a few minutes with the book, I will then be able to answer your questions!"*. She gave me a few minutes, so I quickly read the few pages to myself and said I was ready for questions! So began my very happy seven years at LDS.

I always felt so fortunate to be educated in such a beautiful building with its many facilities, and also that I was very healthy and able to climb all those stairs that led to different areas! From the ground floor we went up one flight of stairs to the Assembly Room, where we had our morning prayers and our singing lessons. Then another flight of stairs led to the Art room. The walls by the stairs had some portraits on them but we no longer remember of whom!

The school library was a lovely large room on the ground floor and we were instructed to be quiet in there. We used to go to the Vicar's confirmation classes and sit round the beautiful long tables. The vicar often gave the table a heavy thump to make a point, and it made us jump, so one week we took several jars of frogspawn, filled to the brim, and put them in a line down the centre of the table. We waited eagerly for the thump and when it came the frogspawn ran all over the table much to the vicar's consternation and, of course, our delight!

The back garden of the school was very large and we had a gymnasium and several tennis courts there. We were allowed to play on the latter after school time. Some of us had



our own little patches of garden where we grew vegetables - all to help the war effort. Most of these little patches of garden were in the paddock opposite the school building.

It was after one of our tennis evenings that we decided to pick some of the pears from the wall of the back garden. Suddenly we saw a member of staff, Miss Palmer, coming our way. I was the only one to escape - How? By Climbing the wall and jumping off into Coldharbour. When I arrived home my father wanted to know what I had done with my tennis racquet So I had to tell him what happened. He ordered me to be with the other girls as obviously they would have to report to the headmistress the following morning. So I was there! Our punishment? She sent for Miss Medcalf, our very popular P. E. teacher, and asked her to think seriously about whether she wished to keep us in her school teams for netball etc. - What a brilliant form of

punishment and one which I have used myself during my teaching career! Thinking of my own career, when I was known as a strict disciplinarian, reminds me of a question once asked by one of the boys - "*Mrs Hunt, how is it that you always know what we are going to do, before we do it?*". My reply? "*Well I did go to school myself once upon a time you know*". He then said "*Yes and we think you could have been rather naughty!*" "*How could you think such a thing*" I responded. I have my reports hidden away in the loft, so that my granddaughters cannot read them such comments as "*Madeline is a born leader, but unfortunately leads all the girls in the wrong direction!*" I could write many pages about my school days but I think this is sufficient for now. I chose the right profession for myself, and loved every minute of it, thanks to my background at home and at school.

Madeline Hunt née Ostler 1941-48



LOOKING BACK 7.
GILLIAN WALTERS NÉE
GIBLING 1940-1947

I was born in 1929 in Sherborne, where I lived until leaving home to go to University. My parents, Robert and Kathleen Gibling, were both teachers and met at Foster's School during WW1. After the war they married and settled in Sherborne. My earliest school days were spent at Stonegarth Preparatory School, a small private prep school, in The Avenue, run by Miss Sparke a friend of Miss Billinger's, who was the Headmistress of Lord Digby's School at that time. I stayed at Stonegarth until I was 11 years old and was able to take the 11+, a hurdle we all had to jump over.

I remember my school days as being very happy, in spite of it being wartime. We were fortunate to have an excellent staff, even though the school was so small. The curriculum was very traditional and sport was

very important, as was music; two ladies came into the school to teach piano.

I had not been at the school very long when Sherborne suffered its only air raid on (1 October 1940). I had stayed behind after school for my piano lesson with Miss Wilkins. When the air raid warning sounded Miss Wilkins said we had better go down to the cellar, which served as the air raid shelter for the school. I do not remember who was in the shelter at the same time except for a lady called Miss Beverley who was our Maths teacher. I still remember, over seventy years later, the noise the bombs made when they fell. We were quite safe in the cellar and the school was not damaged, but the bakery which was next door to the school was demolished and the owner, whose name I believe was Miss Marden, was killed.

I have so many happy memories of school to choose from and I find that some things are still very clear in my mind; one such memory is the importance attached to our inter-house competitions, which were taken very seriously by us all! Following the public school pattern



GILLIAN WOULD ACCOMPANY HER PARENTS AND HER BROTHERS ON THE ANNUAL FOSTER'S SCHOOL CAMP. SHE IS IN THE FRONT ROW CENTRE CAMPING IN 1937

the pupils were divided into four 'Houses': Saxons, Britons, Romans and Danes. We were very loyal to the House to which we belonged. The competitions which I remember were Art, Drama and also Nature Study, as we called it then; now I imagine it would be Natural History. This particular competition received much encouragement from Littleton Powys, who was one of the school governors, and very keen on his hobby of Natural History. I remember that one part of the competition consisted of making a bunch of different wild flowers all picked from the hedgerows and all of which you had to be able to name correctly. How times change; picking wild flowers would be severely discouraged today!

Although we were a very small school we played matches against other local larger grammar schools. When I was in the fifth form a very enthusiastic sports teacher, called Miss Haddelsey arrived at the school. She was determined that our small number of pupils should not prevent us from doing well at inter-school tournaments and when it was our turn to host the Tennis Tournament she spent many hours giving us extra coaching, and also while acting as groundsman, rolling the grass courts so that they would be in tip-top condition! I know that the First Six and the

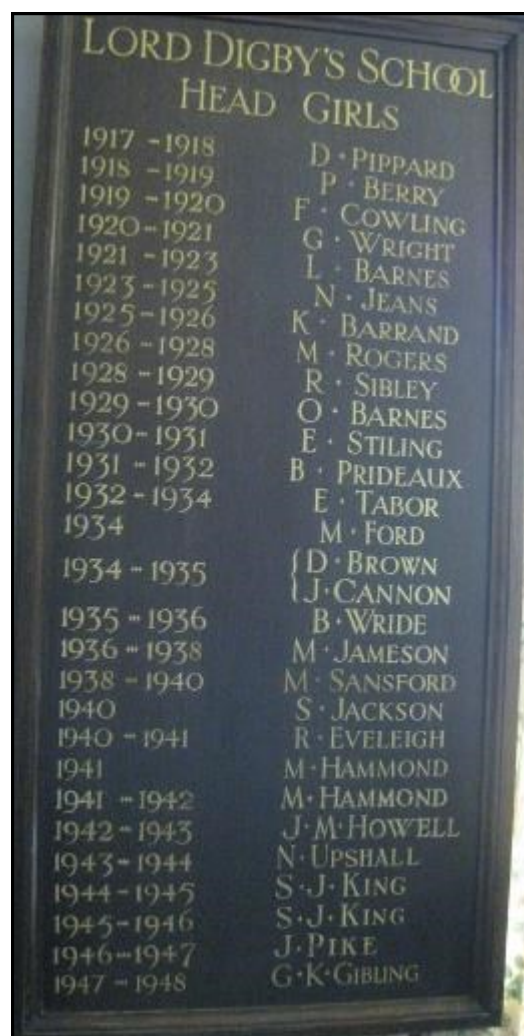


GILLIAN (CENTRE)
IN THE SCHOOL
PHOTO TAKEN IN
1947

Second Six did not let her down!

I have very much enjoyed remembering these happy times and jotting these memories down to share with others as part of *Looking Back at Lord Digby's School* 2014.

Gillian Walters née Gibling 1940-1947



GILLIAN'S NAME AT THE FOOT OF THE BOARD DEDICATED TO THE HEAD GIRLS OF THE SCHOOL. THIS BOARD WAS TAKEN FROM SHERBORNE HOUSE AND IS NOW IN SHERBORNE MUSEUM.

**LOOKING BACK 8.
JOAN HOPES NÉE
WILTSHIRE 1944-1952**

Although born and brought up in Sherborne, my parents came from further west my father from Torpoint in Cornwall and my mother from Plymouth. They had both left school at the age of fourteen. My father had become a commercial traveller and in that capacity they moved to Sherborne. He was also a football referee - of the cup final in 1947 and of many games abroad.

I was born in the Yeatman Hospital in 1933, the second of three sisters; Pat, two years older than me and Ann four years younger. We all went to Stonegarth school, and from there to Lord Digby's school. Stonegarth was run by Miss Spark who shared a house with Miss Billinger the headmistress of Lord Digby's. Miss Billinger sadly died just before I went there in 1944, and was replaced by Miss Thomson.

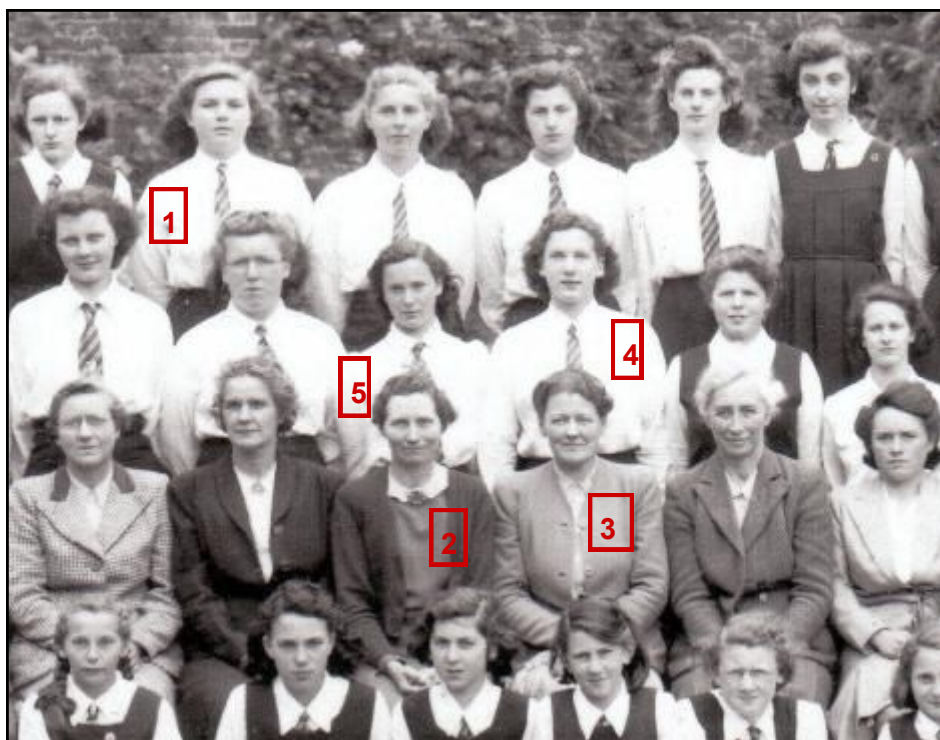
Sherborne House was a wonderful place to go to school. We did not use the main door which led to the entrance hall, but used the

side entrance, where we left our coats having parked our bikes across the way, in what had originally been stables. Once in the entrance hall the grandeur of the building was revealed - the sweeping stairway with the Sir James Thornhill murals leading up to the main hall where we assembled each morning, played in with piano music played by a pupil, myself included. There would have been a reading, a few words from Miss Thomson, and then a hymn, before we made our way to the classrooms.

As a single form entry we followed the same syllabus, with a few exceptions. At early -stage some pupils studied Latin, while others took Home Economics. Everyone took English Language and Literature, Maths, French, History, Geography, Biology, Gymnastics and Games. Miss Dew, the French teacher, was a great inspiration to me and many others some of whom went on to study French at University.

It was at this time that I spent a month in Paris on a pen friend exchange. Monsieur Fourcy, I discovered, had been a prisoner of war in Germany and perhaps because of this the family did all they could to make my stay in enjoyable, driving us in his little van he used for work to many places of interest

around Paris and to the Opera. Micheline and I walked for hours around the city. They lived in a



In this section of the school photograph taken in 1947 you can see Joan's sister Pat Wiltshire (1) who would go on to be Headgirl.

Miss Dew (2)

Miss Thomson (3)

June Pike now Helson (4)

Gillian Gibling now Walters (5)

modest flat, with a toilet, but no bathroom, so we had to make do with bowls of water.

On Wednesday afternoons Mr Weardon, the organist at Sherborne Abbey, came to give us singing lessons, and on account of this, we were invited to practise and take part in performances of oratorios put on by Sherborne school in the Abbey; an uplifting experience.

Gymnastics took place in a separate building, detached from the main house. It was well equipped with ropes and vaulting equipment and also a large mirror which was used to encourage good posture.

The building was also used to put on plays. There were tennis courts situated across the road from school and also netball courts. The hockey pitch was just behind Foster's school which we had to walk to.

There were some strict rules; we were never to run on the stairs or corridors and we were not allowed to talk in the library, where as sixth formers we could study during free periods. Outside the school premises we were not allowed to remove our hats while wearing school uniform, or cycle down cheap Street.

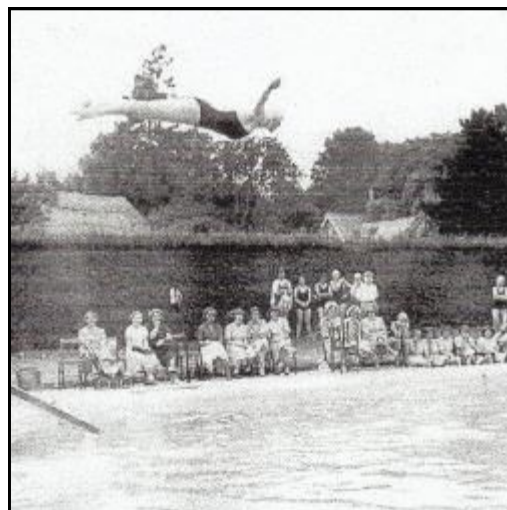
If I remember correctly we had use of Sherborne School swimming pool during the summer term at certain times of the week. In

the summer holidays, the pool was opened to the public; an hour for men from 1-2pm, women 3-4pm and mixed bathing 6-8pm.

I believe it was a great privilege to go to school in Sherborne House. We understood that, among others, Charles Dickens had stayed there and may have written *A Christmas Carol* during his stay. The murals were a marvellous contribution to the school environment, an environment that I thrived in.

Following A-levels, I went on to college, and a career in teaching Art. I still work as an artist, and have focused on textiles, with the love of colour, for some years.

Joan Hopes née Wiltshire. 1944-1952



Left: In the same 1947 school photograph and in a row are:
Pat Lush (4) Jean Coombes (5)
Joan Wiltshire (6) Anne Doble (7)
Above: Joan makes a Swallow Dive

Joan is pictured visiting the exhibition in Looking Back 17

LOOKING BACK 9.
MAUREEN RICE NÉE BISHOP
1948-1956

In 1948, at the age of 10 years, I passed the 11+ exam and, after an interview with the headmistress, Miss Thomson, I was offered a place at Lord Digby's School. My parents accepted it, on my behalf, with pleasure,

On reflection, I have wondered why they wanted me to go to LDS. We lived in a small hamlet in West Dorset called Holywell and I had attended the primary school at Evershot. This was where my grandparents lived. To travel to Sherborne, I had to take the train to Yeovil Pen Mill and then get a bus to Sherborne – at least an hour each way, every day.

There was, I believe, a reason for their choice although it was never discussed with me. My mother's older sister, Myrtle Ruttley, had been a boarding pupil at LDS, probably from 1915—9. She was the oldest of four girls in the family and my grandparents must have struggled to pay for her education. My grandfather was a blacksmith on the Ilchester estate and he would have taken Myrtle to and from Sherborne each term in a horse and cart. Myrtle went on to train as a teacher. She



WAITING
FOR THE
TRAIN ON
EVERSHOT
STATION IN
1952

married and continued to live in Dorset and taught for many years at Longbredy School.

There was no money for any of Myrtle's younger sisters to follow her to LDS. My mother left school at 14 and became a pupil teacher at Melbury Osmond school. She went to Yeovil Technical college one day a week for training but this did not provide qualification. However she continued to teach until I was born and then returned to teaching after the war. After many years of service, mainly at Evershot School, she was finally granted professional qualification a few years before she retired.

So my grandparents were ambitious for their daughters. So too were my parents for me and my younger brother, who went to Foster's School. They would have made sacrifices so that we could have a good education. Just the cost of the uniform was a big outlay for them as well as the cost of transport. Yet at the time we were unaware of this.

So, what were my early impressions of LDS? I was certainly overawed at first but I loved the building from the start of my years there. Like all the pupils at that time, we were taught to respect it. In the entrance hall there was always an arrangement of flowers on an old chest and nearby was Miss Thomson's room. She would be ready to emerge if there was a visitor or if there was any undue noise! We were taught to appreciate the wonderful Thornhill mural and we were never allowed to run up and down the stairs. Prefects would be on the first floor landing watching and warning anyone who broke the rule.

The library on the ground floor was a quiet haven and on the first floor was the large hall where our morning assemblies were held. On the same floor was the art room. The classrooms were on the first and second floors and the teachers had a room on the top floor. There was also a kitchen and a science lab as an extension on the ground floor. In the wonderful grounds to the rear of the house was the gymnasium and over the road were

the tennis and netball courts. We had to walk to Foster's school for hockey practice.

I have good memories of all the teachers. I think that on the whole the pupils at that time were well behaved and we were certainly encouraged and helped to do our best. Looking back at my reports it seems that in the early years I was often struggling with the syllabus and the demands of a secondary education. I remember doing my homework every night and gradually I began to get better marks. In 1953, I took and passed eight GCE O levels. I was slightly surprised as I had no idea that I was expected to do well.

At this point, most of my class left school. Just five of us went on to the sixth form. Again there was no discussion with my parents about this and it was just assumed that I would continue with my education. It was decided that I would study for English, French and History at A level .

I have memories of all the teachers at LDS but the ones that I knew best were those who taught me in the sixth form. Miss Christopher (English) was quiet and gentle, Miss Thomson (history) was firm and rather frightening and Miss Dew (French) was inspiring.

In Miss Christopher's lessons I learnt that there was a world in literature beyond Enid Blyton. I was introduced to poetry and prose and began to read more widely. A love of literature has remained an important part of my life and of course I belong to a book group, and have done so for many years.

Miss Dew was a small sprightly woman with an energy and spirit which made learning interesting and fun. I remember that she gave us a firm basis for learning to speak French as we spent time in our early years discovering and practising the different sounds of French vowels.

I have always remembered a French lesson in the sixth form when we were studying a Moliere play. Miss Dew brought it to life by acting the different parts in French and by going in and out of the classroom as if it was a stage. Unforgettable. She also organised

French exchange visits and so for the first time I went abroad to France and I wrote in the school magazine in 1955 about my stay with a family near Bayonne. And so began my life long love of France and its people and its culture.

Our history lessons took place in Miss Thomson's study – there were only five of us. I particularly remember the study and discussion about the civil war. Would we have been one of the King's men or one of Cromwell's? I listened to the arguments and decided that I would have been a republican supporter and I have never since changed my mind. I have also retained throughout my life a fascination with history and there is no place I love better than Edgehill in Warwickshire where I can stand and imagine the battle that gave Cromwell his first victory.

Miss Thomson was also a part of my experience of history. On Feb 6th 1952, she came into the Lower sixth classroom unexpectedly. As usual, she walked over to the windows and opened one. She was a great believer in fresh air. She then turned to the class told us of the death of King George VI and that Elizabeth, his daughter was now the Queen. She spoke with great solemnity.

As pupils of LDS we were expected to have values which contributed to society. There was a moral code which made it clear that we should respect others, that we should help others and that we should make the most of our abilities.



MISS THOMSON 1952

There was, at that time a strong link with the Franciscan Friary at Batcombe and we were regularly joined at morning assembly by one of the friars who gave a short talk. They all seemed to be jolly chaps.

There was also an emphasis on cultural experience although it was not readily accessible at that time. I certainly enjoyed singing in the choir with the boys of Sherborne School and remember being part of a performance of the St Matthew Passion in Sherborne Abbey. I also remember going to Bryanston School to see a performance of a Greek play. And my interest in art began because in the art room there were lots of books of famous paintings which I loved to look at. But perhaps the most memorable experience was a visit to Stratford upon Avon in 1954. I even know the exact date – Saturday Oct 30th. One of my uncles kept a diary and he noted on that day “Maureen has gone to Stratford with a busload of girls”.

We went to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to see A Midsummer Night’s Dream. I think that Anthony Quayle played Bottom. Afterwards we stayed overnight in a Youth Hostel – another new experience. Now I live just half an hour from Stratford and my husband and I go regularly to see plays at the RSC. So in my school years my love of theatre and music and art was brought to life and I thank all the teachers at LDS.

In my second year in the sixth form I became Head Girl – again much to my surprise. I had to get used to giving votes of thanks and of course, my friends and I had the privilege of the use of the prefects’ room.

Then, because I had started school at the age of 10, I stayed on for a 3rd year and continued to be Head Girl. I was privileged. In recent years I have sometimes been with friends and acquaintances when the subject of schooldays comes up. To my surprise, most people seem to have little good to say about their experience of school. I have been a lone voice saying how much I enjoyed school and how I look back with thanks to all those who

contributed to helping me towards a fulfilling life.

From LDS, I went on to Southampton University to read English and French and I received my degree in 1959. I then did a post graduate year studying Social Science followed by a post graduate year in applied social science at LSE. My working life was spent working in Social Service departments and I had a career which was rewarding and fulfilling.

Can I finish with a memory of a very embarrassing occasion at LDS. I was never very good or very interested in sport or gymnastics. I am rather short and was at the time also described as “tubby”. However, when I was 14 or 15, our gym mistress, Miss Bostock, organised a gymnastic display and we all had to take part. Parents and other supporters of the school were invited to watch.

Our class began with a leapfrog entrance. We were in teams of six and the No 2 of each team had to enter by leapfrogging over No 1, then No 3 over No 2 and so on. For some reason the shortest in the team had to be the last and therefore had to leapfrog over 6 others! Of course that had to be me and the thought of this impossible task sent me into a panic. However much I practised I could not manage to jump over the final two! I am not sure what happened on the day as my mind is a blank. I only know that it was an unforgettable experience – thank you Miss Bostock!

After I left LDS, I always enjoyed receiving the Old Girls’ magazine and I kept in touch with Miss Dew until her death. Also I still see one of my LDS friends and we visit each other from time to time. A part of me was formed by LDS and I continue to appreciate the contribution all the teachers made to my life.

Maureen Rice née Bishop 1948-1956

LOOKING BACK 10.
CLAUDINE MCCREADIE NÉE
SPENCER 1953-1955

My parents were Londoners and came, in 1949, to live in Milborne Port as my father had taken a job with the glove firm Ensor and Southcombe. I was sent to Newell House School, Sherborne, opposite Marston Road, a private prep. school where I met Melian Bordes and we went together to Lord Digby's in 1953. I was then eleven years old and had taken the 11+ in the Methodist Church in Milborne Port. It had been a rather grim experience as the evening before my mother had cooked me a Cornish Pasty and I was violently sick overnight. However, I got through! I was very taken with my new school uniform and was photographed in the garden of Cross House, Milborne Port where we were living at the time.

Melian and I began in Form 2, with Miss Whitworth (who died while I was at the school) as our form teacher. There were 27 of us in the class. We studied Scripture, Geography and Handwork with Miss Keller and Scripture also with Miss Thomson, the head teacher. Miss Whitworth taught us English and History,

Miss Dew French, Miss Hodgson Maths, and Miss Vanderplank Science. The teachers came to us in our classroom. I was good at the academic subjects and advantaged by Newell House where we had done French and Latin, and at the end of my first term, my parents pressed Miss Thomson to allow me to jump a year to Form Three. Looking back, I think they were mistaken. The *average* age of the new class of 34 was 12yrs 11 months and I was 11 years and 9 months, and, while I had no problems with the academic work, I suffered from then on throughout my school career in terms of relative social immaturity. I also ceased to be top or second, except in French and Latin (taught by Miss Williams).

Mrs Gervis, who taught us Art (not something for which I had much talent), was the sister of Noel Streatfeild, who wrote Ballet Shoes, illustrated by Mrs Gervis. This was one of my most favourite books and in 1955, Noel Streatfeild gave out prizes at Prize Giving. I also remember well Miss Julie Bostock (young and pretty) who taught us PE and particularly her gym classes as I was not very good at PE either. My memory is that we wore thick knickers in either yellow ochre or blue or green or red?, depending which house we were in (Saxons, Romans, Britons or Danes) and that I could not touch my toes. Miss Bostock found me 'noisy in the class'! I also learnt to play hockey on the hockey pitch behind the school and Miss Bostock said that I 'showed promise' – happiness! But by the



On the left Claudine at the ready at the start of a new term.

Right some large navy blue knickers found in the museum costume collection in the box devoted to LDS. Somehow I think these pre-date Claudine's attendance.



following year, I was 'very tense' and needed 'to relax more'! My recollection is that we had beautiful grounds with a big cedar? tree outside the school building. Opposite the school were our tennis courts and one of my more triumphant memories of the school is learning to umpire at tennis, sitting on a high seat, just like Wimbledon – more important to me than being one of the third couple – with Diana Fremantle - in the Junior Tennis VI!

For lunch, we walked in a crocodile along Newland and up North Road and then up Wootton Grove to the 'council school' where there was a canteen. The only thing that I remember enjoying eating from these school meals was pickled beetroot. I was put off drinking milk for life at Lord Digby's. We had free milk in small bottles, left by the milkman outside the side entrance of the school, underneath, as I remember it, the window of the room where Miss Palmer ruled supreme over Needlework. I was hopeless at Needlework and I remember Miss Palmer as being small, Irish? and rather hot tempered and at least one of my fellow students, Rosemary English, being quite brilliant at making the little bag that was one of our first tasks. I remember the milk as invariably lukewarm and we used to tip it away down the drain with gay abandon – so much for free milk!

We called Miss Thomson, the head teacher, HCT, after her initials. She was fairly formidable in manner although I have no doubt that she was kind and deeply committed to making Lord Digby's as good a school as she could. Our School Hall was upstairs and round the wall were notice boards with the achievements of Old Girls. HCT was a serious Christian and I remember the Friars coming from Hilfield Friary to talk to us. They were probably quite young and interesting but all I took in were their sandals and strange long brown garments with ropes at the waist.

My parents' ambitions for me led them to take me away from Lord Digby's and send me as a day girl to Sherborne School for Girls. Although I was perfectly happy there, I now rather regret their decision. There was so much that was good about Lord Digby's – seen clearly in my copies of the school magazine! By 1950, it was all the rage to have an autograph book in which friends and family wrote something. When I left Lord Digby's in the summer of 1955, many of my contemporaries, as well as the then sixth formers and the staff, signed my autograph book.

Claudine McCreddie née Spencer. 1953-1955

The honours boards and head girl boards that Claudine remembers seeing hanging in School Hall are now in the storeroom of Sherborne Museum



LIST OF CONTEMPORARIES (FORM IV) (in alphabetical order by first name)

WHO SIGNED CLAUDINE SPENCER'S AUTOGRAPH BOOK IN JULY 1955

Angela Gillingham	Josephine Groves	Rosemary Bennett
Ann Foxcroft	Marian Matravers	Rosemary English
Anne Gear	Melian Bordes	Sheila Chaffey
Elizabeth Ann Lowe	Molly Bull	Susan Betty
Georgina Watson	Myrna Hewlett	Susan Donaldson
Gillian Ackland	Olive Lord	Susan Peacock
Gillian? Burbidge	Pamela Chainey	Susan? Pratt
Jennifer Newcombe	Patricia Doyle	Valerie Wood
Jill Evans	Penelope Bennett	Vivienne Tuck
Joan Rowland	Roma Buckland	Wendy Deans

6th FORMERS WHO SIGNED CLAUDINE'S AUTOGRAPH

Angela Pearce	Margaret Legg
Ann Hammond	Maureen Bishop
Ann Wiltshire	Rosemary Farthing
Barbara Barnes	Sheila Button
Christine Hallett	Valerie Buston
Diana Paice	
Dorothy ?	
Jacqueline Wilding	
Jill Hilditch	
Juliet Brake	

Claudine has kindly donated these pages from her autograph book for display in the exhibition



TEACHERS WHO SIGNED CLAUDINE'S AUTOGRAPH BOOK

- Barbara Williams
- Faith S. Dew
- Helen J Vanderplank
- John Dussek
- Julie Bostock
- L A Lowndes
- L N Hodgson
- M A Christopher
- M Palmer
- R. Gervis
- V P Hann

LOOKING BACK 11.
MELIAN MANSFIELD NÉE
BORDES 1953-1960

Although I had lived in Sherborne from 1947 –1949, when the time came for a move to secondary school in 1953 we lived in Somerset. My parents were adamant that they wanted me to go to Lord Digby's even though the nearest grammar school was in Yeovil. Such was its reputation.

My memories of Lord Digby's are happy ones though some were not so positive! They range from a constant draught from windows which Miss Thomson the head teacher always insisted on being open, whatever the weather, to changing into green, blue or yellow tunics, elasticated at the waist and with short, capped sleeves for dance lessons in the gym, also cold until you started moving, to the daily trip to the canteen, a long walk in a crocodile and where soggy cabbage, cold rounds of potato and spotted dick awaited you.

One day I found the top of a saucepan lid in the cabbage and when I returned it to the staff they said they had been looking for it all morning! I remember Miss Palmer - the 'queen' of the kitchen who taught cookery to those who did not choose Latin and provided amazing refreshments for all events. Mr Dussek, the music teacher, gave us individual auditions if we wanted to join the school choir and he told me I was tone deaf! However when I was in the sixth form some of us sang The Messiah in the Abbey with representatives from the other Sherborne schools - a memorable and great experience.

Assemblies - held in the hall - were important and consisted of hymns - many of which I remember to this day - for example 'He who would valiant be' - and readings from the bible. On special occasions some of us were asked to read and I remember practising in the gymnasium to a tape (on a reel) which would be played back so that Miss Thomson could hear our 'mistakes' and rectify them.



MELIAN IS THE SECOND GIRL FROM THE RIGHT AT THE HEAD OF THE 'CROCODILE' - 1959

Founder's Day was held in the summer - starting with a service in the Abbey followed by tennis in the grounds opposite the main school and tea in Miss Palmer's kitchen. I enjoyed sport, with Miss Bostock, and played hockey, netball and tennis for the school. This involved practices after school each week and on Saturdays we welcomed teams from other schools or went by coach to play them in different parts of Dorset - Bruton, Blandford and Beaminster to name a few. We played hockey at the back of the school and on a pitch near Foster's - the boys Grammar School up the road. I spent time in the sixth form going to Foster's to do 'A' level maths. We also learnt Scottish dancing and there were regular sessions of country dancing.

Breaktime was spent standing in the drive and by the bicycle sheds, chatting and exchanging stories. After learning how to dissect creatures - mainly insects - in biology I decided that this was not for me and did not take the subject at 'O' level. Nor did I take Art after Mrs Gervis - a well known artist herself - told me following a lesson on 'perspective' that I was not observant enough to be any good at art. Much time in History was spent copying information from the board and writing essays about kings and queens through the centuries and the causes of wars I seem to remember. We read Shakespeare - Julius Caesar, Macbeth and the Merchant of Venice and learnt speeches - as well as poems- by heart with Miss Christopher. She taught us how to do précis - a skill which I have found very useful. We also watched the film of the ballet Romeo and Juliet and another very good film I remember about Dutch Art. Miss William's Latin lessons were accompanied by stories of her life to make them more interesting but much Latin was learnt. I took the subject at 'A' level and found that it has served me well. French was a joy, taught by the passionate and much loved Miss Dew who when she retired kept us all in touch and was visited by so many of us whenever we returned to Sherborne. Maths was taught by Miss Hodgson and she made

the subject easy to learn and interesting . I went on to study both Maths and French at Keele University.

They were good years and returning for Old Girl's reunions over the years has always been happy - re- meeting school friends and remembering our times together.

Melian Mansfield née Bordes 1953-1960



MELIAN'S NAME ON THE BOARD DEDICATED TO THE HEAD GIRLS OF THE SCHOOL. THIS BOARD WAS TAKEN FROM SHERBORNE HOUSE AND IS NOW IN SHERBORNE MUSEUM STOREROOM

LOOKING BACK 12.
ANNE COOPER NÉE DRYDEN
1956-1961

I was not academically inclined although I was the only girl in a class of 30 plus at Primary School to pass the 11-Plus. I went from large fish in small pond to small fish in large pond! I had an overdeveloped sense of humour which seemed to manifest itself as soon as I got inside the school gates. Miss Thomson would have deemed it a misplaced sense of humour, and now I would be inclined to agree with her.

One day, after school finished, I was standing in the entrance to the Sherborne cinema with a school friend (no name, no packdrill – she will know who she is) and two local non grammar school boys. We saw Miss Thomson heading towards the cinema. She had spotted the school uniform and was coming to investigate.. I hid behind a set of double doors but my friend and fellow class mate was not so quick. Miss Thomson asked her who the other pupil was but my class mate was not going to give any names away. However, in my haste to disappear, I had left my school bag behind! Miss Thomson took it with her back to school, and eventually I had to emerge to get my bus back home. I couldn't

do any homework that evening of course, as my school bag was back at school. The next morning I was in big trouble, not just for talking to the local lads but for deserting a friend in time of need. I never forgot the lesson learned from that bit of naughtiness, but it took a few years for it to really take root.

I found the discipline at school hard to take, and was happy when it was time to leave, but within a few years I found myself attending Founders Day services and OGA reunions. I was one of Miss Dew's many pen pals and when my daughter was born in 1976, Faith became her second name as a nod to a wonderful lady.

I remember Miss Dew, Miss Christopher, Miss Hodgson, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Gervis, Mrs Van der Plank, Miss Bostock, Miss Rose and all the other staff with great affection. I never achieved much academically but I gained so much more from my time at LDS. The annual general knowledge quiz sent most of us into newspaper reading mode. I still have a love of “trivia” and never let a day go by without watching or listening to the news.

Some years ago, my aunt asked me if I felt I had wasted my education. I trotted out that good old phrase “educate a woman, you educate a family”. I truly believe this.

LDS and staff – we all owe you a great deal.

Anne Cooper née Dryden 1956-1961



1957 SCHOOL PHOTO WITH ANNE CIRCLED AND SHE IS ALSO PICTURED IN LOOKING BACK 17

LOOKING BACK 13.
PAMELA ASTON NÉE BROOK
1957-1964

I went to Lord Digby's School in 1957, when I was 10. We actually lived just across the County boundary, in Milborne Port which is in Somerset, but most of the children in the village seemed to go to LDS or Foster's because Sherborne was nearer than Yeovil.

I can remember being very excited about getting all the things on the uniform list. My mother knitted my school jumper - which was slightly frowned upon but still allowed! Oh those delightful dance tunics!

I was more than a little scared of Miss Palmer - possibly because my sewing skills were not very good. I think we all started off making the same sewing bag and in fact mine survived to be used by my daughter in due course.

Miss Moore for geography - Miss Noakes for science. The new science lab wasn't finished so my first science lessons were in the downstairs 'outside' room which later

became the geography room. Just around the corner was the 'milk shed' Yuk! who can ever forget the smell and taste of warm school milk held in those little bottles.

There were two form rooms on the very top floor along with the Staff room. The landing was quite large and sloping and covered in shiny brown lino. We did a performance of *Alice through the Looking Glass*, I was a caterpillar and I remember sliding around the landing in a green sleeping bag.

We had to keep to the right on the stairs and to this day I still do this. Sadly I do not think the rest of the world is aware of this rule! No talking on the stairs was another strict rule - no doubt just the sound of our feet charging up and down was noisy enough without chatter.

I always looked forward to going back to school after the holidays - particularly in September, when it meant a new form room, new books and stationery. I did **not** like the session in the gym when we had to be weighed and measured - always an embarrassment for me as I was tall and rather chubby. Hated it! (However, compared with today's youngsters I was skinny!)



Once, two or three of us took a short cut in cross country running. We thought we had been rather clever but of course we were spotted and had to go to see Miss Thomson in her study. She pointed out that exercise was necessary otherwise, as she said "*My dear, whatever size would you get!*"

Also on this theme, when I was in the sixth form, John Betjeman came to talk to us and read aloud some of his poetry including "Pam the great big mountainous sports girl"! Of course this reduced the juniors to giggles!

Lord Digby's School was a fantastic school. It was great being a small school and knowing everyone - pupils and Staff - so well. The Staff became our friends and long after we'd left it was always a pleasure to call and see them. Some people think it strange that my headmistress came to my wedding! Miss Dew wrote lovely letters each year, enclosed in a Christmas card - which was usually the first to arrive.

It was such a good school in every respect. I think we were very fortunate to have that sort of education and when it came to choosing schools for my children I wanted them to have a similar experience. My daughter's school was very much along the same lines - sadly that too has disappeared, merged with the adjacent boys' school.

The amalgamation of the schools seemed very drastic and sad at the time. I can remember Miss Thomson speaking about the proposals at one Speech day - she lapsed into Dorset dialect and said "*Leff un bide!*" i.e. if it's not broken don't fix it! And LDS was never broken.

Pamela Aston née Brook 1957-1964



PAMELA WALKS DOWN THE STAIRS 'ON THE RIGHT' WITH CAROLINE BRIDGE FOLLOWING



IN THE SCIENCE LAB

LOOKING BACK 14.
HELEN PETTMAN NÉE
FOUNTAIN 1960-1966

When I think of my time at Lord Digby's school, the pictures that come into my mind are about walking up the main staircase, where the famous mural was painted by Sir James Thornhill and then going to the morning assembly. Miss Thomson always stood at the bottom of the stairs to check that no girl had hair touching her collar. If hair was long, it had to be tied back properly.

When a new entry of girls joined the school for the first time and they walked up the staircase, there would be some sniggers at the plump boy cherubs on the mural. After the first day, this never happened again. Discipline was really strict.

Later, Miss Thomson taught our group about the Tudors and Stuarts for 'A' level. She enjoyed working with us because we gave our opinions, though we were extremely careful not to contradict directly. We learned a lot from her about polite conversation and debate. Miss Thomson always said she wished she could have retired immediately after teaching us, to retain those happy memories.

On one occasion, Sir John Betjeman visited the school to talk to the girls. Again we all went to the Assembly hall. Sir John started by

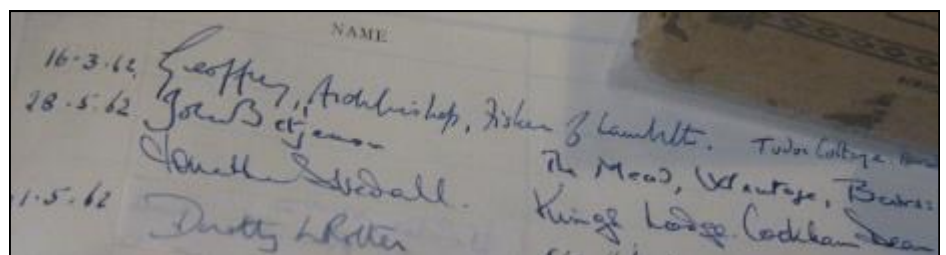
disclaiming his right to be

called a poet, "I am just a rhymster and anyone can do what I do", he said. He looked around the room and began to make up some verses about the things he saw, starting with the big school clock. The modesty and yet brilliance of this man has been a memory at the forefront of my mind every since. If John Betjeman doesn't deserve the title of 'poet', then who does? In a time of severe competition for academic achievement. (Internal exams at Lord Digby's were graded from 1st, 2nd, 3rd in class, all down to bottom of the class), it sort of helped to know from Sir John that no one could achieve the grade and that everyone could. John Betjeman enjoyed the company of Miss Thomson as he liked formidable women.

I think I can remember the teachers and classmates at Lord Digby's almost as well as some events that only happened yesterday. I remember walking to the canteen in a crocodile for having lunch. I remember having a French lesson every day with Miss Dew and being taught so well that everyone passed GCE French. I remember going to the lovely sunlit art room and being taught by Mrs. Gervis. On my first day at the school, everyone suddenly disappeared and I was left not knowing where to go for Art; they had been in such a hurry to get to this lesson.

I think it is really good to have memories of school that are so different from usual school memories. However, we were privileged when others who did not gain a place at the school were less so, but I won't go into the iniquities of the 11+ here!

Helen Pettman (nee Fountain).



DVD still available on Amazon featured LDS

Sir John Betjeman signed the LDS Visitors' Book in 1962

LOOKING BACK 15.
ANNA GREEN NÉE WOODS
1958-1963

My time at Lord Digby's School (1958-1963) was basically happy, despite homework, felt hats and lots of discipline.

I remember leading the junior "croc" with my friend Susannah and walking as fast as we could to leave half the girls behind in a long straggly line, then having to wait for them to catch up before we crossed the A30. Some of my friends (no names) got into trouble for ringing all the doorbells along Newland, I was much too timid to try this but enjoyed the fun.

Canteen dinners were not usually very appetizing, occasionally we had a square of chocolate crisp which was extremely hard and we watched with glee as one new member of staff dug into her's with enthusiasm and the offending square shot off her plate and on to the floor.



HERE IS ANNA IN A RATHER FUZZY 1963 PHOTOGRAPH—IT IS THE ONLY COPY AT THE MUSEUM AND IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY INSIDE A GLASS CASE AS PART OF THE EXHIBITION—WHICH EXPLAINS THE POOR REPRODUCTION.

One term, my friend was trying to grow her hair, but the rules stated that hair longer than collar length had to be tied back (impossible in the early stages) Miss Thomson would wait at the bottom of the stairs to catch anyone who was incorrectly dressed, we spent weeks using the fire escape to avoid her!

Having a surname near the end of the alphabet (Woods) came in very useful as it meant I was right at the back of the class. At the end of term Miss Thomson would march in, check our marks for all subjects and comment on our failings. My marks were never very good but by the time she arrived at the end of the register she had run out of steam, so after a cursory glance would just snort and say "*Sit down 'gell*" before marching out.

In the summer months, weather permitting, we would help in the garden instead of "Speech training", (a dreaded lesson if you had a strong local accent). One week we were supposed to have learnt a poem by Shakespeare, but counting on a sunny day, nobody had bothered. Inevitably it rained and as Miss Thomson asked each girl to stand and recite a few lines, more and more pupils got into trouble, fortunately, being at the back of the class, by the time it got to my turn, I'd worked out which lines I had to say and learnt them off pat.

There are lots of happy memories, dancing, singing French songs, hearing Mr Burness play Fur Elise so beautifully and enjoying art because Mrs Gervis always found something good to say about my hopeless attempts.

In comparison to present day senior schools, Lord Digby's was very small, but because of the size we were known by all the staff, we had incentive to do well, a feeling of belonging and pride in our school.

Anna Green née Woods 1958-1963

LOOKING BACK 16.
SUSAN RAWLINSON TEACHER
1970-1984

Those involved with the exhibition at the museum were delighted to receive this letter sent to Pauline Batstone and with the permission of the sender it is reproduced here for all to read:

I went to Sherborne Museum yesterday, specifically to see the LDS exhibition. My goodness, did it bring back memories! I was almost in tears.

I went first as a teacher to LDS in 1970, and, coming from teaching in a local Secondary Modern School, was wrong-footed when the girls all stood up quietly as I entered the room, and waited politely for my greeting. Having been used to spending a few minutes commanding some sort of order before beginning a class, this perplexed me at first!

I joined the school as a teacher of English under Miss Christopher, but after the death of Miss Brown became Head of Classics – my first subject. The last 5 of my 14 years' teaching time there were as Deputy Head, before I left in 1984 to become Head of Croft House School.

LDS was the happiest time of my teaching career, and I woke every day thinking, 'Oh good, I am going to LDS'. I was appointed by the inspirational Monica Ditmas, who was my role model when I became a headmistress myself. She was fair, kind, and well-respected. I remember once when there was a work-to-rule by the dinner ladies she asked staff to help serve lunches. As a young and rather proud teacher, I haughtily suggested it was not our role to serve the girls. 'How does that square with Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, Sue?' asked Mrs Ditmas. I served the lunches!



ALL ABOARD THE
 SS UGANDA—
 EDUCATIONAL
 CRUISE 1979.

BACK ROW L-R:
 KATE KEMP,
 SALLY TAYLOR,
 KAYE HART

MIDDLE ROW:
 SUE
 RAWLINSON,
 SARAH
 ANDREWS
 SARAH DERRICK,
 LIZ MARCHANT,
 LAURA WESTON,
 JULIE
 SWINDELLS,
 ANGELA
 HELSON,

FRONT ROW:
 AMANDA HALL,
 CLAIRE
 WILLIAMS, SALLY
 TODD

On one occasion a film company 'borrowed' Sherborne House for a set, and the girls were used in crowd scenes. The director told them for one scene, 'I want you to come out of that door and run down the stairs.' There was a shocked silence. One brave girl volunteered, 'We're not allowed to run on the stairs, sir.' Those lovely Thornhill murals were too precious to cope with the thundering of teenage feet. Although as we shared more and more lessons with Foster's School, the wear and tear certainly increased!

I was fortunate enough to produce several plays and a Gilbert & Sullivan opera with the two schools, sometimes in conjunction with Foster's staff. How well I remember the

fun we had with 'Patience.' Boys who initially, as Dragoon Guards, had said 'There is no way that we are going to dance!' turned out to be amazing dancers and skipped with gusto around the stage of the gymnasium.

Happy days! How touching it was to see the old school hat again. It brought back memories of a school with a purpose, with a sense of community, with standards, and with – yes – a love of learning. I owe so much to LDS, and am forever thankful for those happy years and those wonderful pupils.

**Sue Rawlinson, Teacher then Deputy Head
1970-1984**



LEFT: SUE'S NERISSA IS SWEPT OFF HER FEET BY ANTHONY HEARDEN'S GRATIANO WHEN THE LEADING LADY WENT DOWN WITH GLANDULAR FEVER AND SUE, THE PRODUCER, STEPPED IN.



'HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE' - DECEMBER 1980

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH FOSTER'S SCHOOL

L-R: WHITCHURCH, GOSSAGE, BILLINGS, TASSELL, HOPCROFT, JOYCE AND POND.

LOOKING BACK 17. SNIPPETS

It is a curious fact that once something is started all sorts of related pieces of information and little co-incidences start to come together and this chapter is to record some of these.

SNIPPET No 1.

First up is a delightful school photograph taken in 1925 and framed, probably at the time by a proud parent, which had found its way into an auction room sale and into an additional 'box of items' that was included with the original item that had been bid for. The new owner asked her visiting parents to bring it into the museum to donate it and I just happened to be at the front desk when they arrived with it. Although the museum is very short of storage space and the curator is only able to make very carefully considered new additions I persuaded her to take this photo as so many of the LDS photos have been rolled up for many years, which is not good long term, whereas this photo is in the original frame with the original string too. And as a bonus someone at sometime working at the museum had made a list of all the pupils. I am still trying to find out who this might have been as no-one now recognises the writing. My hunch is that it was either Gerald Pitman or David Hunt. Both these men gave a huge

amount of their time to volunteering at the museum and both were very interested in old photographs, donating many to the museum's large collection. I found similar lists in the same handwriting for Foster's school photos and as both men went to Foster's it could have been either of them. Today we are very glad that someone took the time to make these identifications and I hope in the fullness of time to be able to present this photo together with the names in a more up to date format. Do watch this space. I have included, overleaf, the list of names that goes with this photograph and as you can see it includes a David Hunt fourth from the left in the front row who may or may not be the same David Hunt who did so much for the museum.

Many of those pictured here also appear in the photograph included with the memories of Nora Symes earlier in this publication. The photo also contains a very young Miss Dew who had only arrived at the school during the previous year.

The young boys and girls in the front row towards the left would have been at Stonegarth, the preparatory school in the Avenue run by Miss Sparke. The photo would have been taken behind the house in Newland now the car park to Waitrose.



LORD DIBBY'S SCHOOL 1925

BACK ROW LTR 2ND ROW LTR 3RD ROW LTR 4TH ROW LTR

1	MARJORIE BRISCOE	MARIE WHITTAE	MARIAN PAYNE	NANCY WISE
	JOAN LOWMAN	JESSIE MORRISH	LINDA GOULD	HILDA LAMBERY
	JOAN PARSONS	FREDA CHURCHILL	PAT HULTON	MAY WORNER
	MARJORIE GOULD	MARIE PHILPOTT	NINA MAIDMENT	ENA SIBBLEY
5	STELLA GOULD	FREDA MAUNE	KATHLEEN SIBBLEY	IVY KNIGHT
	PHOENIX BRISCOE	KATHLEEN CLITHER	KATHLEEN BARRAND	IRENE SMITH
	DOROTHY WISE	MARGARET COOMBS	NORAH JEANS	FREDA FRAMP
	JOAN TREVETT	KATHLEEN NEW	MISS DRAKE	WINNIE ALFORD
	LILLIAN GRIFFIN	DORIS LAMBERT	MISS PARSONS	MINNIE LOUGH
10	KITTY KENDALL	ELSIE LANE	MISS GALLARD	PHYLLIS HISCOCK
	DORIS TIDD	PEGGY HENSTRIDGE	MISS MIDDLEY	NANCY WIGHTMAN
	PHYLLIS EDWARDS	MARY PENNY	MISS WICKHAM	ANNABEL BIRD
	JOY SHARP	MILDRED PATTEN	MISS CLOUGH	IDA PERROTT
	EILEEN WALLACE	GLADYS CRABB	MISS BILLINGER	ISABEL GOULD
15	DOREEN FOOT	GLADYS SAMWAYS	MISS SPARKE	MARY FOOT
	DOREEN WALLACE	MARY HODGSON	MISS DEW	OLGA BARNES
	MARJORIE ANTELL	MOLLY CHANT	MISS RENDELL	
	MARGARIE QUINTON	ELENOR GREEN		
	GWEN STEWART	MILLY KENDALL	MISS HALL	<u>FRONT ROW.</u>
20	ETHEL BULPETT	MARJORIE ROGERS		DORIS KITZEROW
	GWEN HANFORD	JOYCE BAKER	ENA OTTON	MOLLY SHARP
	VIOLET WARNER	PAT HISCOCK	UNA DODGE.	DIANA HUNT
	MOLLY GAY	FANNY COLES	MOLLIE BETTEN	DAVID HUNT
	ELSIE PERHAM	EVA WEISTE	PHYLLIS CHANT	MARY KENISTON
25	DOROTHY CHALDECOTT	LILLIAN HODGSON	PEGGY COWING	LILY CLOTHIER
	EILEEN STILING	MURIEL HUNT	FREDA SALMONS	PHILLIP PARSONS
	MADGE DIMENT	ROSE COOMBS	HILDA FOOT	JACKS. BACON
	MAY DIKE	LORNA EDWARDS		
	NANCY MORRISH	IDA FOOT		
30	JOAN RABBETTS	PHYLLIS WAYFOOD		
	DULLIE HUNT			
35	MARJORIE HODGSON			

RUTH LOWMAN

LESLIE PAGE

EILEEN TABOR

40

BETTY COOMBS

MURIEL FREEMAN

MOLLY PERHAM

MONICA BOATSWAIN

MARIAN STEELE

45

MOLLIE BRICE

SNIPPET No 2.

While searching for suitable photographs for inclusion in the exhibition I came across one showing the teachers, with the young pupils at Newland Infants School. This school appears to have been known by several different names - Newland Infants, Foster's Infants. Stonegarth Preparatory School was later established and run as a private fee paying school by Miss Sparke.

Again there is a list of names and as you can see there is a Miss Ruegg standing over to the right with a most distinctive hairstyle. In the

rather fuzzy photo at the foot of the page entitled 'Lord Digby's Infants' Class' you can see Miss Ruegg standing on the far left. My guess is these photos date from the early 1920s.

Now we fast forward to a chance conversation with John Damon, a member of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society who has let me have a photo of Miss Ruegg as she retired after teaching at Thornford School for many years.

John says: *I remember that our Thornford School infants' teacher was Miss Nellie Ruegg and she retired in about 1963 aged 60. On the 1911 census she is aged 8 in Westbury, Sherborne, daughter of Louis Hamilton Ruegg and granddaughter of Louis Henry Ruegg, Newspaper Proprietor.*

ROUND THE TABLE - CLOCKWISE

REGINALD WOOLIDGE
 KATHLEEN BETTEN
 LEONARD NEALE
 MARK SHUTTER
 BILLY COWLING
 ANNIE SHUTTER
 DOUGLAS STEWART
 JOYCE DYER
 WILLIE SHUTTER
 MALCOLM BETTEN
 NELLIE RUEGG
 EDDIE PESKETT
 HILDA LOWMAN

STAFF:- MISS TAYLOR
 MISS SAMPSON
 MISS RUEGG



RIGHT: MISS RUEGG IS PICTURED ON HER RETIREMENT BEING PRESENTED WITH FLOWERS BY JOSEY POPLITT IN

SNIPPET No 3

During the early stages of the preparation for the exhibition at the museum the first two boards, that contained the names of the Head Girls of the school, were located in the museum's storeroom and put on display. As time went on and old girls came to visit the exhibition some rightly asked where the most recent board could be. I searched the storeroom on a couple of occasions but no luck then suddenly I could see it still hanging on one of the walls but now with some metal shelving in front of it loaded with boxes of items that had kept it hidden. So now, at last, all three boards are on display.



LOOKING BACK 18

THE HONOURS BOARDS

On the closure of Sherborne House the school honours boards were taken down and donated to Sherborne Museum where they were stored in the storeroom where they have remained to this day. The boards have been photographed and they are viewable at Sherborne Museum via the digital display. Printed copies can be provided upon request.

Following photographs have been provided by June Helson.



LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL HEAD GIRLS	
1917 - 1918	D · PIPPARD
1918 - 1919	P · BERRY
1919 - 1920	F · COWLING
1920 - 1921	G · WRIGHT
1921 - 1923	L · BARNES
1923 - 1925	N · JEANS
1925 - 1926	K · BARRAND
1926 - 1928	M · ROGERS
1928 - 1929	R · SIBLEY
1929 - 1930	O · BARNES
1930 - 1931	E · STILING
1931 - 1932	B · PRIDEAUX
1932 - 1934	E · TABOR
1934	M · FORD
1934 - 1935	(D · BROWN
	(J · CANNON
1935 - 1936	B · WRIDE
1936 - 1938	M · JAMESON
1938 - 1940	M · SANSFORD
1940	S · JACKSON
1940 - 1941	R · EVELEIGH
1941	M · HAMMOND
1941 - 1942	M · HAMMOND
1942 - 1943	J · M · HOWELL
1943 - 1944	N · UPSHALL
1944 - 1945	S · J · KING
1945 - 1946	S · J · KING
1946 - 1947	J · PIKE
1947 - 1948	G · K · GIBUNG

LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL HEAD GIRLS	
1948 - 1949	P · T · WILTSHIRE
1949 - 1950	C · R · DOMAN
	D · A · LOBB
1950 - 1951	R · A · DOBLE
1951 - 1952	D · M · HIGGINS
1952 - 1953	M · C · CHESTER
1953 - 1954	B · M · STAINER
1954 - 1955	M · V · BISHOP
1955 - 1956
1956 - 1957	S · A · DEWEY
1957 - 1958	F · M · BUTT
1958 - 1959	K · A · FOXCROFT
1959 - 1960	M · B · BORDES
1960 - 1961	J · M · COLLINGE
	D · M · EASTHOPE
	M · J · KING
1961 - 1962	S · H · DEACON
1962 - 1963	P · BROOK
1963 - 1964	J · HUNSLEY
1964 - 1965	N · WOODFORD
1965 - 1966	E · S · SHARPE
1966 - 1967	P · M · RICHARDS
	M · MILLER
1967 - 1968	R · CHURCHILL
1968 - 1969	H · J · WHITE
	S · HABBERFIELD
1969 - 1970	S · K · HORNBY
1970 - 1971	J · WILSON
1971 - 1972	M · E · GRIBBLE
1972 - 1973	

LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL HEAD GIRLS	
1973 - 1974	J · L · HILL
1974 - 1975	S · BROADHURST
1975 - 1976	S · C · MILDENHALL
1976 - 1977	J · REYNELL
1977 - 1978	S · A · WOODS
1978 - 1979	S · P · TOMPKINS
1979 - 1980	S · H · PENNEY
1980 - 1981	L · WARWICK
1981 - 1982	R · M · BRETT
1982 - 1983	N · K · REES · WILLIAMS
1983 - 1984	M · R · WILLIAMS
1984 - 1985	C · E · JOSE
1985 - 1986	P · C · JACKSON
1986 - 1987	L · J · FOX
1987 - 1988	J · BARTLE
1988 - 1989	S · A · FERGUSON
1989 - 1990	R · C · ROBINSON

UNIVERSITY HONOURS

1920. LILIAN KNAPP. B.A. LEEDS.
 1925. MARJORIE BRICE. FRENCH HONOURS. LONDON.
 1929. NORA JEANS. FRENCH HONOURS. LONDON. CLASS II.
 " KATHLEEN BARRAND. ENGLISH HONOURS. READING. CLASS III.
 " EVA WEISTE. MODERN LANGUAGE TRIPOS. CAMBRIDGE.
 PART I. CLASS I.
 1931. " " MODERN LANGUAGE TRIPOS. CAMBRIDGE.
 PART 2. CLASS II.
 1932. MARJORIE ROGERS. HISTORY HONOURS. READING. CLASS II.
 1936. HAZEL MILES. HONOURS DEGREE IN ARTS. TORONTO.
 1937. " " M.A. CHILD PSYCHOLOGY. TORONTO.
 1946. DIANA GILLETT. SOCIAL SCIENCE DIPLOMA. BIRMINGHAM.
 1937. EILEEN M. TABOR. ENGLISH HONOURS. LONDON CLASS III.
 1947. EILEEN M. WELCHER. M.B. B.S. LONDON. F.F.A.R.C.S.
 1948. NANCY UPSHALL. NATIONAL DIPLOMAS IN FINE ARTS AND DESIGN.
 READING UNIVERSITY.

LORD DIGBY'S SCHOOL.

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 1921 | MARY CHAMBERS. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SENIOR LOCAL. |
| 1922 | KITTY BEEL. | | LONDON MATRICULATION. |
| .. | GLADYS MARDEN. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SENIOR LOCAL. |
| 1923 | LOUISA BARNES. | | LONDON MATRICULATION. |
| .. | NORAH JEANS. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. |
| 1925 | NORAH JEANS. | | HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. |
| .. | .. | | COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP, £60 p.a. |
| 1926 | KATHLEEN BARRAND. | | CAMBRIDGE HIGHER CERTIFICATE. |
| .. | EVA WEISTE. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. |
| | | | WITH DISTINCTIONS IN FRENCH & GERMAN. |
| 1928 | MARJORIE ROGERS. | | CAMBRIDGE HIGHER CERTIFICATE. |
| .. | .. | | COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP, £100 p.a. |
| .. | EVA WEISTE. | | CAMBRIDGE HIGHER CERTIFICATE. |
| | | | DISTINCTION IN GERMAN. |
| .. | .. | | COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP, £100 p.a. |
| .. | DOROTHY CHALDECOTT. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. |
| .. | JOAN RABBETTS. | HONS: | CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. |
| 1930 | OLGA BARNES. | | CAMBRIDGE HIGHER CERTIFICATE. |
| .. | JOAN RABBETTS. | | CAMBRIDGE HIGHER CERTIFICATE. |

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 1931 | EILEEN STILING | 1947 | JUNE PIKE |
| | BETTY PATCH | | GILLIAN GIBLING |
| 1939 | DORIS MACNALLY | | (STATE SCHOLARSHIP) |
| 1941 | EILEEN WELCHER | | JEAN NORRIS |
| 1942 | MURIEL HAMMOND | | (STATE SCHOLARSHIP) |
| | HONOR WHITE | 1948 | ELLEN EADIE |
| 1943 | JOSEPHINE HOWELL | | MARY MARTIN |
| 1944 | NANCY UPSHALL | | MADLINE OSTLER |
| | (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP) | | ELIZABETH WELCHER |
| | JOAN HUTCHINGS | 1949 | PATRICIA WILTSHIRE |
| 1946 | PAMELA GREENHAM | | (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP) |
| | EILEEN PARSONS | 1950 | CHRISTINE DOMAN |
| | CYNTHIA PETTIT | | DAPHNE LOBB |

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (ADVANCED)

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 1951 | MARION BALSOM | 1952 | DOROTHY HIGGINS |
| | ANNE DOBLE | | (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP) |
| | ADRIENNE MICHAEL | 1953 | MARY CHESTER |
| | (STATE SCHOLARSHIP) | | (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP) |
| | JOAN WILTSHIRE | | JEAN DAVEY |
| | | | (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP) |

1949	MONICA TREVETT.	DIPLOMA IN INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT. LONDON.
	JILL KING.	HISTORY HONOURS CLASS III. READING.
1951	GILLIAN K. GIBLING.	ENGLISH HONOURS CLASS II. LONDON.
	JEAN B. NORRIS.	HISTORY HONOURS CLASS II. SOUTHAMPTON.
1953	ELIZABETH E. WELCHER.	ENGLISH HONOURS CLASS II. LONDON.
1954	R. ANNE DOBLE.	FRENCH (AEGROTAT) SOUTHAMPTON.
	ADRIENNE R. MICHAEL.	FRENCH HONOURS CLASS III. LONDON.
1956	MARY C. CHESTER.	HISTORY HONOURS CLASS II. LONDON.
	DOROTHY M. HIGGINS.	GENERAL CLASS III. SOUTHAMPTON.
1957	BRENDA M. STAINER.	GENERAL CLASS II. SOUTHAMPTON.
1958	JEAN M. DAVEY.	FRENCH HONOURS CLASS II. LONDON.
1959	MAUREEN V. BISHOP.	GENERAL CLASS II. SOUTHAMPTON.
	DIANA M. PAICE.	FINE ARTS. CLASS II. READING.
1961	FELICITY M. BUTT.	FRENCH HONOURS CLASS II. LONDON.
	MARGARET A. SALMONS.	GEOGRAPHY HONOURS CLASS II. EXETER.
1963	YVONNE M. ALLEN.	B.A. (T.P.) MANCHESTER.
1964	DOROTHY M. ALDERMAN (NÉE FANNON).	HISTORY HONOURS CLASS III. LEEDS.
	DIANA M. EASTHOPE.	PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS CLASS II. MANCHESTER.
	BARBARA GRANT.	GEOGRAPHY HONOURS CLASS II. EXETER.

1954	ANN CLOTHIER	HEATHER J. LAMBERT
..	ROSEMARY F. FARTHING	ELIZABETH A. MORRISSEY
..	R. MARGARET SHORT	MARGARET A. SALMONS (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
..	BRENDA M. STAINER (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	1959
1955	P. VALERIE BUSTON (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	SUSAN A. BETTY
..	DIANA M. PAICE (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	MELIAN B. BORDES
..	ANN WILTSHIRE	K. ANN FOXCROFT
..	MAUREEN V. BISHOP (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	JOSEPHINE A. GROVES
1956	BRIDGET OSMOND	SUSAN M. PEACOCK (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
..	DOROTHY A. COZENS (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	1960
..	EDNA A. E. BOWN	MELIAN B. BORDES (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP 1959)
1957	FELICITY M. BUTT	HAZEL E. CLIFT
..	SHEILA A. DEWEY	DOROTHY M. FANNON (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
..	MARGARET HILL	KAY SCAMMELL
..	ANNE E. SAMPSON	1961
1958	FELICITY M. BUTT (UPPER SCHOLARSHIP TO WESTFIELD COLLEGE, LONDON)	DIANA M. EASTHOPE (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
..	YVONNE M. ALLEN (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)	BARBARA GRANT (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
..	ALISON M. ASHTON	HELEN L. SALMONS (COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP)
		CAROLYN A. ROBINS

1965	M. B. BORDES	French, Mathematics Pass. KEELE.	1972	P. H. BATSTONE	Social Admin. & Social Policy (Cl.ii), EXETER.
	S. M. PEACOCK	B. D. S. BRISTOL.		E. A. CHESTERMAN	Physics & Maths. (Cl.ii), LONDON
	H. L. SALMONS	N. D. D. READING.		E. CHISHOLM	French (Cl.iii), EXETER
	H. E. SARTIN	History Hons. Cl.ii EXETER.		A. L. EBDON	Quantitative Social Studies (Cl.iii), KENT
1966	C. BOWDEN	Dip. A.D. Cl.ii.		M. MILLER	B. Ed. (CAMBRIDGE), Homerton College
	S. H. DEACON	Social Study. Cl.ii, BIRMINGHAM.		K. J. MOLLOY	English (Cl.iii), CAMBRIDGE
	S. McKNIGHT	Social Study. Cl.iii, EXETER.		J. F. SMART	B.A. Gen., MANCHESTER.
	J. SCAMMELL	English, Cl.iii, BIRMINGHAM.		S. M. VINE	B.A. Gen., (LONDON), Trent Polytechnic
	K. M. TRUMP	Combined Hons. Cl.iii, BIRMINGHAM.	1975	H. A. BUCK	B.Sc. Mathematics, BRISTOL.
1967	S. L. NEWMAN	Geography, Cl.ii, EXETER.		H. J. WHITE	B. Ed. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), EXETER, Rolle College
	J. RAVENSCROFT	Social Studies, Cl.ii, KEELE.	1974	A. BIGGIN	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), English, LONDON
1968	S. EXTON	Geography Hons. Cl.iii, UNIV. OF WALES.		A. GRIDLEY	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii) Human Sciences, OXFORD
	R. M. HAGGETT	Psychology, Cl.ii, UNIV. OF LONDON.		J. F. PAIN	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Biology, LONDON
	J. HUNSLEY	Combined Hons. Cl.ii, SHEFFIELD.		P. SYMES	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Latin, BIRMINGHAM
	M. S. SPENCER	English Hons. Cl.ii, DURHAM.		K. R. WIGHTMAN	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii) English and American Studies, Univ. of EAST ANGLIA
1969	R. M. CLAYTON	Combined Hons. Cl.ii, UNIV. OF KENT.	1975	P. FROWD	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Ceramics, PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC
	V. G. COFFIN	B.Sc. UNIV. OF HULL.		S. HABBERFIELD	B. Ed. (SUSSEX), Chelsea College
	J. SWATRIDGE	B.Sc. HONS. Cl.ii. The CITY UNIV.		S. K. HORNBY	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii) Political Studies, LEEDS
1970	P. L. BROOK	B. D. S. Hons. UNIV. OF BIRMINGHAM.		D. M. HYDE	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii) Fine Art, READING
	J. MEAGER	B. Ed. UNIV. OF SUSSEX.		J. WILSON	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Cl.ii) Mathematics, BRISTOL.
	R. H. NICHOLSON	B.A. Cl.ii, Fine Art, UNIV. OF READING.	1976	S. ALLARD	B. Pharm. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), LONDON
	O. R. NICOLSON	B.A. Cl.iii, Mathematics, UNIV. OF YORK.		S. M. AUSTIN	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), English & French, KENT
	P. M. RICHARDS	B.A. Hons. Cl.ii, Sociology, UNIV. OF ESSEX.		J. M. BUCK	B.A. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Modern Languages, BRISTOL.
	L. K. WEBBER	A. R. C. M. Singing, ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.		E. A. HARBOTTLE	(Chesterman) M.Sc. Radiation Physics, LONDON
1971	D. J. CHURCHILL	B.A. Cl.ii, English and American Studies UNIV. OF EAST ANGLIA		H. M. COLING	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Zoology, LONDON
	H. FOUNTAIN	B.Sc. Cl.ii, Human Relations, UNIV. OF SUSSEX		D. S. FIELD	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Biochemistry, LONDON
	M. E. SHAPLAND	B. Ed. Cl.ii, UNIV. OF SUSSEX, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION		V. HENRY	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Cl.ii), Applied Biology, TRENT POLYTECHNIC
	E. S. SHARPE	B.A. Cl.ii, French, DURHAM UNIV.			
	J. B. STAFFORD	L. R. I. C.			

1976 J. ROCKLIFF B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Earth Sciences, LEEDS
 J. THORNTON B.Ed.(Hons)(Cl.), (SUSSEX), Chelsea College
 S. TOPHAM B.A. (Hons)(Cl.) Geography, MANCHESTER
 E.A. BROOK B.D.S. BIRMINGHAM
 1977 R.A. EYRES B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) Social Admin. LONDON,
 (Goldsmith's)
 B.P. HARRISON B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) Classical Civilization & Hist.
 (LONDON) N. London Polytechnic.
 D. NENDICK B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Experimental Psychology,
 SUSSEX.
 C.A. STICKLAND B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) English, EAST ANGLIA
 S. TOPHAM M.Sc.(Cl.) Personnel Management, SALFORD
 1978 A.E.M. ADAMS B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) Natural Sciences, DUBLIN
 J.P. BLAZE B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Maths & Computer Science,
 BRUNEL
 E. EDWARDS B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) English & History, (LONDON)
 Oxford Polytechnic
 F.A. ELLIOTT B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Physiology & Biochemistry,
 READING
 E. HUTCHINSON B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Genetics, LONDON
 (Queen Mary)
 A.M. IRVING B.Sc.(Tech)(Cl.) Ergonomic Psychology,
 WALES
 J. LESLIE-JONES B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) Town & Country Planning,
 Manchester
 L.A. MIDDLEMORE B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) Maths & Economics, YORK
 J. ROSE B.Sc.(Hons)(Cl.) Chemistry, EXETER
 G.M. TAYLOR B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) English & Drama, KENT
 J.H. WIGHTMAN B.A.(Hons)(Cl.) English, LONDON
 (Royal Holloway)

1979 R. CHADBURN B.Sc.(Hons) Maths & Psychology, EXETER
 F.S. GIBB B.A. (Hons) English & Medieval Studies, EXETER
 A.E. NEWTON B.Sc.(Hons) Botany, LONDON
 J.H. PHEYSEY B.Sc.(Hons) Medical Biochemistry, SURREY
 D.H. SHEPHERD B.Sc.(Hons) Speech Sciences, NEWCASTLE
 D.A. WRIGHT B.Sc.(Hons) Maths & Computer Science,
 NEWCASTLE
 1980 A. CHILDS B.A.(Hons) English, CARDIFF
 S.F. DYSON B.A.(Hons) Politics, READING
 DE. FORD B.A. French & German, BRISTOL POLY.
 P. LESLIE-JONES B.A.(Hons) Jurisprudence, Brasenose, OXFORD
 F. SHOTTER B.Sc.(Hons) Environmental Studies,
 E. ANGLIA
 D.M. WOOD B.A.(Hons) Law, EXETER
 1981 K.J. CHAFFEY B.Ed.(DIPHE) SOUTHAMPTON
 E.A. COWDERY B.Sc.(Hons) Zoology, EXETER
 J.C. FIELD B.Sc.(Hons) Biology, OXFORD POLY
 Y.M. HORSLEY B.A.(Hons) English, CARDIFF
 T. HOWE B.Ed. CHELTENHAM
 Y.L. MORGAN B.Ed. (Gwent) WALES
 G.A. NOAKE B.Sc.(Hons) Psychology, READING
 J. REYNELL B.A.(Hons) Archaeology & Anthropology,
 New Hall, CAMBRIDGE
 G.F. STAFFORD B.A.(Hons) English, LEEDS
 S.J. TAYLOR B.Ed.(DIPHE) SOUTHAMPTON
 1982 C.T. DONOVAN B.A.(Hons) Latin, EXETER
 P.S. DONOVAN B.A.(Hons) English, LONDON
 M.M. HUTCHINSON B.A.(Hons) English, LONDON
 L. SCHOFIELD M.B.B.S. (Middlesex Hosp. Med. School),
 LONDON
 S.A. WOODS B.A.(Hons) French & German, SOUTHAMPTON

1983 S. HAIGH-BROWN H.N.D. Hotel, Catering & Inst. Management
 Westminster College
 S. PENNY B.A. P.P.E.
 P. SHARPE B.Sc. Experimental Psychology,
 Sussex
 S. TOMPKINS B.Sc. Chemistry with European
 Studies, Sussex
 1984 L. WESTON B.A. English, Leeds
 A. ADAMS B.A. Chemistry, Dublin
 C. CARPENTER B.Ed. Cheltenham
 L. DIMENT B.Sc. Economics, Cardiff
 R. HAIGH B.A. Combined Studies, Brighton
 S. HALBARD B.Sc. Chemistry with Management
 A. HINKS B.Ed. Roffe College
 T. HURST B.Ed. King Alfreds, Winchester
 R. LANE B.Sc. Biochemistry, Imperial College
 E. MARCHANT B.A. French, California & Los Angeles
 E. MILLS B.Sc. Medicinal, Agricultural &
 Environmental Chemistry,
 Brunel
 N. MORGAN B.Sc. Mathematics, Westfield
 C. STADDON L.L.B. Law, Kings, London
 J. SWINDELLS B.A. English Literature, Goldsmiths
 S. TAYLOR B.Ed. Geography, Southampton
 S. WILLIAMS B.A. Social Policy & Admin.,
 Plymouth Polytechnic
 1985 C. GOODE B.Sc. Physiology & Biochemistry,
 Southampton
 K. HART B.A. English & History, Keele
 A. HELSON B.Sc. Physics, Imperial
 E. JAGUSIEWITZ M.A. Political Studies, Aberdeen
 J. JONES B.A. Communication Studies,
 Coventry Polytechnic
 S. LLOYD B.A. French Literature, Sussex

G. LOPEZ B.A. Spanish, Cambridge
 J. PORTER B.Sc. Applied Maths & Physics,
 St. Andrews
 B. STRINGFELLOW L.L.B.
 R. CHADBOURNE B.A. Law, Leeds
 Graphic Design,
 Maidstone Coll. of Art
 V. CLIFFORD B.Sc. Psychology, University
 College, London
 M. LLOYD B.Sc. Food Science & Marketing,
 Reading
 K. MARKS B.Sc. Chemistry with European
 Studies, Sussex
 1987 R. HAYWARD B.A. Architecture, Oxford
 Polytechnic
 K. KEMP B.A. Publishing, Oxford
 Polytechnic
 S. Mc TIER B.A. Visual Art, Aberystwith
 J. SCHOFIELD B.Sc. Physics, Exeter
 H. SOFF B.Sc. Natural Sciences, Cambridge
 S. TODD B.Sc. R.G.N., Reading
 E. WAITE B.A. Graphics, Brighton
 Polytechnic
 1988 L. A'HERN B.Sc. Economics & Business
 Studies, Aberystwith
 T. BRAZIER B.Ed. La Sainte Union,
 Southampton
 J. GOODE B.Sc. Pathobiology, Reading
 R. TAYLOR B.A. Urban Policy & Race Relations
 Edgehill College
 J. WOOD B.Sc. Nautical Studies, Plymouth
 Polytechnic
 1989 S. ANDREWS B.A. Language for Business
 Studies, Wolverhampton
 E. GILLARD B.A. History & Politics, Reading

1962 CYNTHIA BOWDEN
 ANNE E. EDMOND
 PENELOPE A. ENGLAND
 MARY-JANE KING
 VALERIE A. LONG
 HELEN E. SARTIN
 1963 MAUREEN R. CARR
 SUSAN H. DEACON
 MARY C. MATHEW
 MOIRA MORLING
 JENNIFER RAVENSCROFT
 JILL SCAMMELL
 KATHERINE M. TRUMP
 JEANETTE WENT
 1964 MARGARET E. ABBOTT
 PAMELA L. BROOK
 DENISE A. CLEEVE
 RACHEL M. HAGGETT
 DIANA HANCOCK
 PAMELA A. JONES
 TRILBY LYLE
 SANDRA L. NEWMAN
 LILIAN M. RICKETTS
 1965 SANDRA E. CLEEVE
 SUSAN EXTON
 JENNIFER HUNSLEY
 MAUREEN SIMPSON
 M. SUSANNA SPENCER
 JANE STAFFORD
 1966 PAULINE H. BATSTONE
 STEPHANIE CHRISTOPHER

ROSALIND M. CLAYTON
 VALERIE G. COFFIN
 HELEN B. FOUNTAIN
 VALERIE E. FRIZZELL
 ROSEMARY H. NICHOLSON
 ELIZABETH S. SHARPE
 JUDY K. SWATRIDGE
 PAMELA E. WHITTLE
 1967 DIANA D. BLESSLEY
 ISABEL C. BURROUGH
 JENNIFER D. CHAFFEY
 VALERIE A. EVANS
 JULIA M. FRYER
 SANDRA HATCHER
 JANETTE LOCK
 OLWYN R. NICOLSON
 AVRIL PARKER
 PENELOPE M. RICHARDS
 ROSEMARY WOODFORD
 LORRAINE WEBBER
 Foundation Scholarships, Royal College of Music
 1968 DIANA CHURCHILL
 BEVERLY GRIBBLE
 SUSAN GRIDLEY
 ELIZABETH HOLBROOK
 MARILYN MILLER
 KATHLEEN MOLLOY
 JANE SMART
 RACHEL STRETTON
 VALERIE WILSON
 KATHLEEN MOLLOY
 Exhibition at Newnham College, Cambridge

1969 ELIZABETH CHESTERMAN
 ELIZABETH CHISHOLM
 ROSEMARY CHURCHILL
 ANN EDDON
 AMANDA GEAR
 JANE MCKINNELL
 HEATHER STEPHENS
 SANDRA VINE
 HILARY WHITE
 1970 HILARY BUCK
 JENNIFER CHILDS
 SARA DENNING
 MAUREEN EXTON
 SALLY HABBERTFIELD
 FELICITY RICHARDS
 KATHLEEN WIGHTMAN
 1971 LESLIE BIDDLE
 ANNE BIGGIN
 ELIZABETH BROOK
 ALISON CLARKE
 RUTH DAVIS
 RACHEL EYRES
 JANE FIRTH
 HEATHER GAWLER
 ALISON GRIDLEY
 SHELAGH HORNBY
 DEIRDRE HYDE
 JOY MILLER
 JENNIFER PAIN
 PETULA SYMES

1989 A. GISBOURNE B.Pharm. Pharmacy, Kings, London
 C. HAYNES B.Sc. Geography, Aberystwith
 J. HOLT B.A. History, Cambridge
 R. JEWELL B.Ed. Roffe College, Exeter
 S. KEMP B.A. Law, Exeter
 C. JOSE B.A. Combined Studies (Language)
 Durham
 S. KING B.Sc. Geography, Oxford
 S. KNIGHT B.Ed.
 L. MACORMAC B.A. Modern Languages, Oxford
 H. MARKS Radiography, Guy's,
 London
 1990 J. BALMPFORD B.Sc. Environmental Science,
 Coventry Polytechnic
 J. BAYLEY B.A. History, Oxford
 J. BEAUCHAMP B.Sc. Applied Science, Exeter
 D. GREEN B.Sc. 1st. Geography, Edinburgh
 L. HARKER B.Sc. 1st. Psychology, Bristol
 H. MOORE B.A. Maths / Education,
 Warwick
 D. POWELL B.Sc. 1st. Horticulture, Bath
 E. WOODS B.A. Modern History / English,
 Liverpool

**LOOKING BACK 19.
VISITORS TO THE
EXHIBITION 2014**

Anyone photographed
attending the exhibition will
appear in this chapter



Wendy Gould now Green 1956-1961 Valerie A Long now Giles



LEFT: Marion Anderson (née Mattravers)
Wendy House (née Davenport) Olive
Waterfield (née Lord).



ABOVE: Marion Northcott
(née Robins)



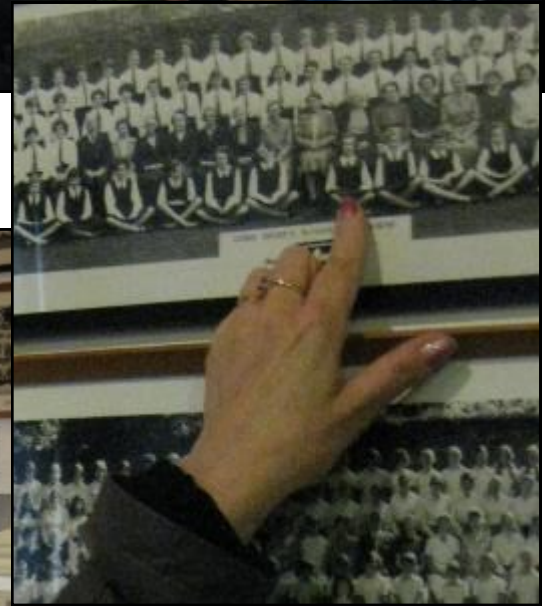
LEFT: Annie Cooper
(née Dryden) Daphne
Mitchell (née Hiscock)
Jeannette Gillett (née
Went)



ABOVE: Sue Fox-Willis (née Broadhurst) standing by the museum window displaying some of the honours boards.



RIGHT: Susan Vincent (née McKnight)



LEFT: Sisters Maureen Ward and Suzanne Milne (née Carr)

This is Sue Hardy née Moores visiting the exhibition from her home in Hunstanton. Her mother Ruby Moores née Oxford also attended the school and Sue was able to find her mother in the 1935 photograph held at the museum. Sue's Uncle Alec Oxford has been a strong supporter and long term volunteer at Sherborne Museum.



This is Claire Moses née Farley. Claire still has the lino-cut that she used to produce the cover for *Pygmalion* that she is pointing to in the exhibition case. Claire went on to study Textile Design and Art at college when she left LDS.



LEFT: Two long term friends Rachael Haggett and Jill Nicholls née Hooper visited the LDS exhibition together. Rachael was visiting from Sydney, Australia and Jill from Wokingham. There they are above in the rather

fuzzy 1963 photograph of the school which was in the display cabinet at the exhibition. Jill also found her aunt Irene Wilson née Smith in the 1925 photo of the cast of *Make Believe* in *Looking Back 3* and in the photograph in *Snippet 1*. Jill's mother Daisy Hooper née Smith also attended the school. It was also good to know that they have both been keeping up with the increasing number of memories that are appearing in *Looking Back at Lord Digby's School* via the museum website.

This is Ruth Berry née Cox—she attended LDS as did her two sisters Peggy and Sybil—during the 1930s and 40s.





This is Sue Longstaff née Lane. Sue was at the school 1956-62. She married former headboy of Foster's School, Bruce Longstaff, here they are pictured visiting the exhibition from their home in Verwood.



This is Angela Silsby née Bennett 1958-63' Like many former pupils Angela has fond memories of her time at LDS



This is Shakti Puja formerly Gill Taylor 1968-75, she is pointing to herself in one of the photos. She says *'The longer I live the more I appreciate the education at LDS—not perfect but FULL!'*





This is Coralie Robertson (née Haynes) with twins Ariel and Ethan. Coralie's name is on the last of the LDS honours boards.



Joan Hopes née Wiltshire visited the exhibition in July 2014. You can see the name of her late sister Pat on the Head Girls' Board. Joan has shared her memories in *Looking Back at Lord Digby's School 8*



Here is Ann Dustan née Luffman visiting with her husband

On the right are Janet and Simon Easton.
Janet née Bowsher was at LDS 1970-77 and Simon is an Old Fosterian having attended Foster's School 1968-1975



Shakti Puja visits again this time with sister Debbie Sylvester née Taylor. Debbie was at LDS 1968-75



This is Tracey Quigley née Healey visiting from her home in the USA. She was at the school 1978 -80. She mentioned that a surprising number of old girls live on the other side of the Atlantic.



Old school friends Gill Maynard née Cuff on the left and Caroline Osborne née Tucker on the right.



Penny Knight née Dyke (LDS 1959-65) and Diana Churchill (LDS 1961-68) met by chance at the museum—Diana is one of the volunteers at the museum and happened to be on duty at the time of Penny's visit.



Here is Jenny Wood visiting from Taunton— she was also pleased to be re-united at the museum with the rocking horse that she remembers seeing at the Abbey School in Sherborne on her first day at the school.

Sandra Hill neé Rose from Burgess Hill, West Sussex managed to just scrape in before the exhibition closed in March 2015.

Her comments sum up the sentiments of many who visited:

*What Memories!...
The names come flooding back.....*



LOOKING BACK 20 THE EXHIBITION AT SHERBORNE MUSEUM

The temporary exhibition at Sherborne Museum in 2014/15 'Looking Back at Lord Digby's School' turned out to be a big success and it was very personally rewarding for me to meet so many returning 'old girls'. I think that, as with the exhibition for Foster's School that preceded this one, many more people enjoyed the exhibition than actually signed the visitors' book and Susan Vincent provided a piece about the exhibition for the Old Girls' Association magazine which follows here. I finish with photos of the exhibition, the window display around founders day and a couple of rather ghostly photographs taken from the Sherborne House Arts website.

With very many thanks for all the comments and encouragement I have received during the exhibition and a big thank-you to all who have contributed to the memories contained here.

In the opening pages I threw down the challenge to try to beat the old boys of Foster's School by producing more chapters of memories than they achieved and I am pleased to say that you have pipped them by two chapters!

Barbara Elsmore

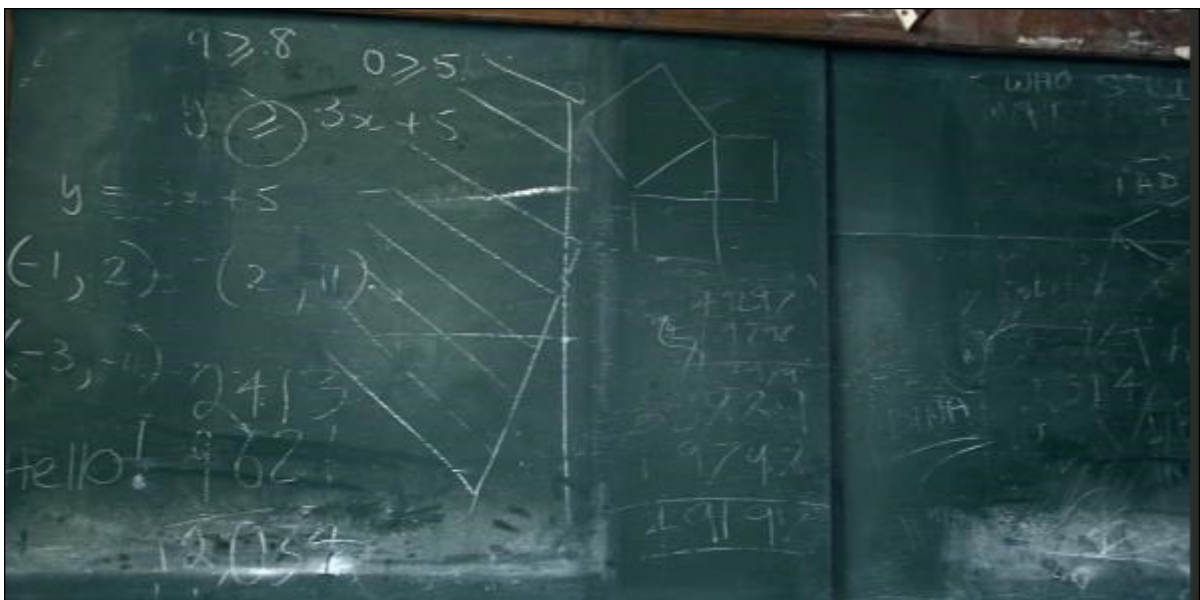
April 2015

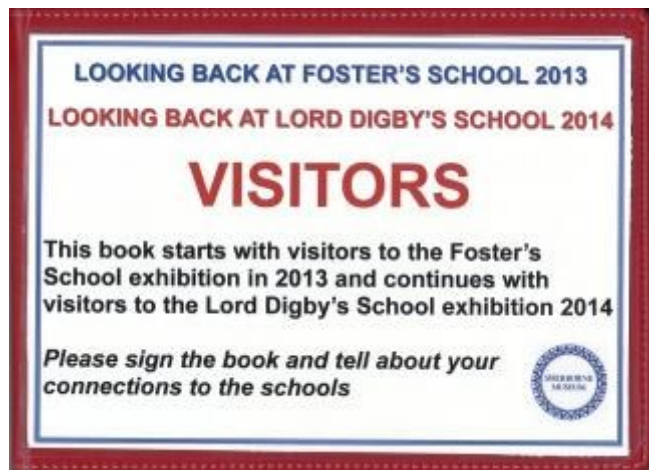




SHERBORNE
MUSEUM
WINDOW
DISPLAY AROUND
FOUNDER'S DAY

BELOW : TWO
PICTURES TAKEN
FROM
SHERBORNE
HOUSE ARTS
WEBSITE





Comments

of Kasari
 Pamela had the postcard
 not realised in exhibition
 MEMORABLE TRIP!
 1952/57
 Lovely exhibit!
 Attended 1978-1980
 1976-1981
 BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES!
 1952-1957
 MEMORABLE EXHIBITION.
 SUCH GREAT
 1957-64. GOOD MEMORIES
 OF A FANTASTIC SCHOOL
 AND WONDERFUL STAFF.
 HAPPY DAYS!
 SUCH HAPPY MEMORIES -
 WE WERE SO VERY LUCKY TO HAVE
 I remember having to sit
 on the bottom of the stairs for talking in
 the library!
 I remember
 sliding down
 the banisters

Comments

Long meeting up with sister,
 school, slings, tiny to
 as
 Great memories!
 from 78-85 class!
 Great to catch up
 after years long!
 Good memories - one school
 made me my wife's
 friend to be 100 with 85
 friends to look back on
 memories - it was a
 reasonable time since then
 had some see posting home
 from my school - and
 school secretary - also
 at Digby 62/68

Back memories -
 all happy!
 1962-1969. Brought
 back some good memories
 from the 'Looking Back' book
 1966-72 Certainly
 brings back memories!!
 1967-74. Played a lot of
 hockey - school days! Great!

Address

Comments

at home
 in Chislehurst
 WA
 attended 1966-68 - from memory
 away - I remember school + school
 school great - long days - also
 and colored books worn shoes - also
 heard + how we swapped in 2nd
 school - the school - the school -
 started at older Newland building
 moved to Stonehouse House
 2nd generation LDS! Do you
 remember your end of term posture mark
 Thanks to Mrs Dew a lifetime friendship
 my grand-grandmother attended here
 in 1860's! (L-dog's) mud getting
 very happy memories
 1967
 d. Hange,
 Middle
 MA, BSC
 MAIA
 a friend
 attended 1948-56. So good to see
 use photo's & records of LDS - an important
 1960-67 Good to see all the
 photos etc!

Many took the time to sign the visitors book with such comments as:

- Happy Days!
- Brought back lots of memories
- I remember having to sit at the bottom of the stairs for talking!
- A great school—such a pity it is no more
- As a daughter of a former pupil—I found the exhibition of great interest
- An incredible place to learn
- The happiest 14 years of my teaching career
- Very nostalgic
- Do you remember your end of term posture mark?
- I loved my time there

**LOOKING BACK 21.
A LAST WORD FROM
SUSAN VINCENT NÉE
McKNIGHT**

**The Lord Digby's School Exhibition in the
Sherborne Museum 2014/15**

This exhibition followed the similar one 2013/14 for Fosters School and between them brought in 238 visitors who signed the book. It is interesting to note that Fosters achieved 120 people signing and Lord Digby's had 118 signatures. It is notable that several people travelled considerable distances to see it-including Canada, USA and Australia. Of all the comments in the book two stand out as follows: "*A potpourri of memories. Will never forget Miss Hodgson—Five quick questions in Maths*". This is from Hilary Fisher née White 1962-1969 now in Oregon, USA. On 10 May 2014 at our reunion Betty Crocker wrote: "*LDS OGA Secretary for 45 years*". This is an amazing term of service for which we thank her and may she continue for many years yet. I feel we should though ask her to record her memories of the school from 1939!!!! Maybe Betty would record them for us with help from the Sherborne Museum.

We must thank Barbara Elsmore of Sherborne Museum for her work on this great Exhibition.

Many thanks as well to all the contributors of a number of historical artefacts and photos and old magazines to ensure a fascinating journey down memory lane for us all. In addition was the opportunity, online, for us all to contribute memories of our time at Lord Digby's. There are also many photos in it and a photo of the Boards listing all the Head Girls from 1917-1992. It was moving to see these in the Museum where I believe they have a permanent home, albeit now back in the storeroom. It is possible to see items held by

the museum and this can be requested by contacting the museum in advance.

As one entered the exhibition you were greeted by a glass cabinet with the school uniform on display. The blue scarf many of us probably still have, the blue and white cotton summer dress which, before WW2, went with a tie and I loved the boater hat for summer and the felt one for winter- fashions which are still relevant for us as adults.

One of the highlights though of the exhibition was the wide range of photos. The history of the school was well documented as were all the buildings it inhabited until the final resting home of Sherborne House. As one can imagine, it was the full length photos of the whole school over the years which created much interest—especially for those of us in years 1955-63 where there were three—1956, 1961 and 1963.

Those photos of the earlier years enabled many to identify their mothers who preceded them at LDS. A notable photo in the book of memories is that of Sue Hardy, née Moores, whose mother Ruby née Oxford was in the photo of 1935. Those of us at the school 1956-63 were especially lucky to see how we had grown over that time together with many happy memories of friends made. It was especially poignant that many of us were together in the museum looking at these after the LDS Old Girls Reunion as we could talk over old times directly. The experience was enhanced by the proliferation of LDS magazines from that time as well so we could read about our successes in the inter-house competitions and recall many sporting events.

Another notable photo was taken in 1925 with young Miss Dew who has only been at the school for a year. This had been donated to the Museum by someone who had received this as a bonus in an auction room sale for another object!!

Of the historical artefacts on show a most revealing one from June Helson was the Saxons House Book started in 1959 and ended in 1969. This is a fascinating read and I

am happy to provide photocopies for anyone interested. It is a record of successes in all the inter house competitions as well as a list each year of those who were in detention and lost marks during the year.

Programmes of plays performed with the girls from LDS and Fosters revealed how much work June Helson put in to organising the costumes.

The other key highlight was the individual accounts of ex pupils time at Lord Digby's over the years. Whereas Foster's had 18 contributors we have now achieved 20 Amongst those who have contributed so far include: Nora Dibble née Symes – a schoolgirl in 1920s, Pam Lodder 1938-42, June Helson née Pike 1940-47, Gillian Walters née Gibling 1940-47, Joan Hopes née Wiltshire 1944-52, Maureen Rice née Bishop 1948-1956, Claudine McCreadie née Spencer 1953-1955, Melian Mansfield née Bordes 1953-60, Anne Cooper née Dryden 1956-1961, Pamela Ashton née Brook 1957-1964, Helen Pettman née Fountain 1960-1966, Anna Green née Woods 1958-1963 and finally Susan Rawlinson a teacher 1970-1984.

From the above stories two teachers are often mentioned: Mrs Ruth Gervis and Miss Palmer!! References to Miss Dew as being a great inspiration for us to learn French are also frequent as well as the fear Miss Thomson instilled in us though one writer expressed the belief in reality she was a very "kind person". Miss Hodgson and Miss Christopher are also acknowledged as being very inspiring teachers. I recall the former always wore a very beautiful perfume. We will have a copy of the stories so far on show at the next reunion.

In the Lord Digby's School magazine 1982/83 Mrs Hill, in her preface, quotes the great teacher Dr Bronowski "*Every animal leaves traces of what it was: man alone leaves traces of what he created*".

Written by Susan Vincent née Mcknight - "*I was at the school from 1956 until 1961 when the family left Sherborne to go to Blackburn, Lancs where I joined Blackburn High School for Girls with 120 in the Sixth form as opposed to six at LDS!*"



If you visit the Britannia Inn or The Dining Room do look out for the poster remembering the days when the school was here.



In January 2016 I was delighted to be asked to give a talk as part of Sherborne Museum's series of Winter talks entitled 'Looking Back at Lord Digby's School' and it was very rewarding indeed to see just how many old girls of the school were able to be there.

In June 2018 a wonderful surprise arrived in the post and I was finally able to hold in my hands a printed copy of the book which the LDSOGs had managed to get into print -well done indeed and thank you.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Private Collections

A number of items of memorabilia featured throughout this publication together with many more are in the hands of the former pupils at the school. Photographs from private collections and from my own collection are used throughout—Barbara Elsmore

Lord Digby's School—Dedicated to the Old Girls of the school

Miss H C Thomson's book *Lord Digby's School* Published in 1969 by The Abbey Press, Sherborne, is an invaluable source of information. At the time she consulted with Mr Wilfred Simms, Mr A B Gourlay, Mr G B Dawson, Mr W A Fooks and Mr David Hunt of Sherborne. She also expressed her thanks for all the help she received from Miss Holmes, Dorset County Archivist. She also thanked Miss Dew for typing and checking the text. The book can still be purchased via the on-line second hand book market.

Dorset History Centre

Many relevant documents, photographs, deeds, admissions registers, correspondence etc have been deposited at the Dorset History Centre including a full set of school magazines from 1917–1991 A search can be made on line at dcc.dorsetforyou.com—Archives and Local Studies or a visit can be made to the Dorset History Centre, in Dorchester. Some of the documents have not reached their release date so viewing may be restricted. A photographic permit can be purchased and retrieved items then photographed.

Sherborne Museum

Honours Boards, miscellaneous boards and large framed items. Extensive collection of items including photographs, postcards, programmes, prospectuses, items of uniform, visitors' books etc. Contact the Curator, Sherborne Museum for more information.

Whole School Photographs

Sherborne Museum held the following whole school photographs when check made in 2014—1921, 1925, 1930, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1957, 1963, 1966, 1970 1990(multiple copies in some cases)

Dorset History Centre held when check made December 2017—1950, 1954, 1957, 1960, 1963, 1966, 1970, 1973, 1982, 1986

LOOKING FORWARD A POSTSCRIPT ADDED IN OCTOBER 2024

Many will have been aware of the sad neglect of Sherborne House over the years until there came a message of hope via a planning application pinned to the gates and gradually changes could be seen taking place. The *Sherborne Times* ran a series of articles about the plans for the future and we could read about the many fine craftsmen and women who were working together to fulfil these plans. However much we read nothing could possibly prepare for the moment when we first passed through the doors.

The beautiful house itself has been brought back to life once again surrounded by gardens and terraces for sitting out on. There is a large gallery space for the display of arts and of crafts within the house itself with outdoor statuary throughout the gardens. There is a coffee shop, a restaurant, a shop and a breathtaking pavilion behind the house. The original builders rather uncompromising staircase, added at the back, has now been cleverly incorporated and everywhere you

look the attention to detail is quite astonishing.

Of course many old girls of the school have returned, some of them again and again, and a copy of this book is held in reception and has been read by some who had not seen it before. There were a few spare copies donated by the LDSOGs but these have been handed out.

Now the website:

<https://fostersdigbys.co.uk/>

is hosting this book and anyone can have access to read it and/or download it from there. I am very grateful to the website manager for enabling this move. (It has been specifically set out to read well on a tablet)

For me personally a new door has opened as I am now one of the volunteers at the newly named:

'The Sherborne'.

Barbara Elsmore

barbelsmore@gmail.com





