

*Kingsland  
C.of E. School  
1846-1996*



Drawing by Robin Clifton

*Cliff Davis*  
*1941-1947*

## PREFACE

A 150th Anniversary is a milestone in the history of any institution but for Kingsland School such an Anniversary is but one milestone in a history that goes back perhaps 500 years, and marks the move of the School to its present site.

Many schools throughout the country at this time are celebrating the 150th Anniversaries of their foundation and of the great crusade of the Church then in providing Elementary Education for all children. In providing a bigger school on a new site 150 years ago Kingsland was reflecting that same crusade.

In many ways a school is like a river - remaining the same yet also constantly changing. The site and buildings of a school remain much the same, though evolving much as the course of a river does, yet there is a constant change of particularly the pupils but also of staff, each of whom forms part of the whole during their time at the school and without whom there would be no life in the school. Without the people a school would be as a dried-up river.

This 150th celebration for Kingsland School is the chance both for former pupils and staff to recall the times when they were part of the living stream of the School and for present pupils and staff to reflect on the rich heritage of which they are now a part. And for both past and present to give thanks to God for Kingsland School and for those largely unknown people who founded it and sustained over the centuries to the present day.



(Revd. Preb. S. B. Thomas)

Rector of Kingsland & Chairman of Kingsland School Governors

## HEADMASTERS OF KINGSLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

1845	Mr. Walter Deane
1879	Mr. Alfred Latham
1880	Mr. Ernest Wall
1882	Mr. Alfred Bugden
1887	Mr. John Carter
1887	Mr. William Pritchard
1894	Mr. James Nock
1931	Mr. Charles Jones
1967	Mr. Granville Lund
1971	Mr. John Chappell
1991	Mr. Phillip Jones

## KINGSLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

1996 marks the 150th anniversary of Kingsland Church of England School on its present site, but an elementary education had been provided in the parish since before the Reformation. Land and tenements had been given to maintain two priests "to serve the chantry of Our Lady", one of whom taught the children.

A survey made in 1547 records that "Sir John Hartley, of good conversation, aged 42, who celebrates, helps the curate, keepeth a school and doth bring up youth virtuously and hath the clear revenue and profit of his scholars".

The Rector's Curate was expected to conduct the school as part of his duties and this was held in the vestry of the church. During the 15th century an upper floor was added to the original single storey building, the lower room being the schoolroom, complete with fireplace and outside door, and the upper floor, the teacher's living accommodation. This floor has since been removed.

In 1810 Thomas Woodhouse, a servant at the Rectory, left £200, with the Rector, Rev. Richard Evans and Edward Evans of Eyton Hall as trustees, to be invested for the provision of education for the poor children of Kingsland. In 1895, this was producing £10.17s.6d. yearly, £5 of which was to be given to the school and the rest to the poor of the parish at Christmas.

## THE EARLY YEARS

The foundation stone of the present school was laid by the Rector's mother, Mrs. Evans, in the presence of the Rector, Rev. K. D. Evans and the churchwardens, Walter Greenhouse and John Williams, on the 31st May 1845. Its provision was very much a parish effort, with the land being donated by the Church from the glebe land and the Deed of Gift is registered in the Chancery. The yellow and red sandstone for its construction was donated by Mr. B. Sanders of Street Court and was hauled from the quarry on his estate by teams of 33 volunteers from the village. The number of loads each carried, 105 in all, was entered in the Births and Deaths Register of the Church. The cost of building the school was £262.10s.0d., £50 being donated by the National Schools Society (which still supports church schools today) £75 by the Privy Council and the rest by public subscription. This was organised by John Gethin of Brick House, the cost of the appeal being 13s.6d., and a list of subscribers who included The Bishop of Hereford - £5.0s.0d., Lord Bateman (Shobdon Court) - £5.0s.0d. and W. K. Davies of Croft Castle - £3.0s.0d., was entered in the church ledgers. The ledgers show that the major expenses were £70.0s.0d. to the builder, George Smith, £14.18s.0d. to the stonemason, Mr. Rawlins, and £25.0s.0d. to the architect. The furniture for the new school was provided by John Lewis at a cost of £48.4s.3d.

The school was opened by the Rector's wife on Monday, 26th October 1846 and consisted of one classroom with a schoolhouse attached. The first headmaster was Mr. Walter Deane who was paid £13.15s.6d. per quarter, but this was reduced by £5.7s.4½d. school fees for his children, leaving him with £8.11s.1½d. per quarter.

In 1874 a second classroom was erected to accommodate the children. Various elaborate plans, some costing £1,600, were submitted, but the one chosen, costing £630.7s.9d. including fittings, was submitted by Charles Evans of Leominster. The school was visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors at that time and the Managers were told in the report of 6th August that a log book must be kept, a practice which continues today. The inspector, Mr. Colt Williams reported:

"The irregularity of attendance at this school is unequalled in any district. Out of a population of 1,100 there are 125 on the books, and of these only 30 are infants. The average attendance is 59. The state of things is extremely unsatisfactory."

The school was also instructed to keep a register of pupils and the earliest register in existence dates from 24th April, 1876, the first entry being Ester Eliza Bounds who was born in May 1872. Number seven on the register, enrolled on the same day, was George Sankey, son of John, a labourer, who has descendants still at this school.

The registers give a wonderful insight into village life as they give the occupations of the fathers, many such as stationmaster, butcher, wheelwright, thatcher and tailor, no longer to be found functioning in the village. The first register also states the station in life of the unfortunate unmarried mother - "spinster", "singlewoman".

Mr. Deane appears to have taught the children single handedly for several years as the Education Department report for 1875 said,

"It is very hard on Mr. Deane that he should have been left to teach a school averaging 72 for the year and 102 for a week without any help. It is impossible for any master to teach such numbers properly."

The Managers later paid Mr. Deane's wife, Alice, £3.15s.0d. per quarter to assist him. The condition of the school also gave concern "The schoolroom would look more tidy if it were plastered". (This was not completed until the 1950's!).

The problems at the school continued and in 1876 the grant by the Education Department was reduced by two tenths because of the poor attainments of the pupils, particularly in needlework. Concern was also expressed that the Money Order and Postal Telegraph Office run by the headmaster in the porch of the school was disrupting the work of the school. On Mr. Deane's death in 1879, the Post Office was taken over by his widow and her son delivered the telegrams on his penny farthing bicycle, the first man in the village to own one.

As in all Victorian schools singing was a major feature of school life and a list of songs taught during the year were entered in the school log. The songs chosen for 1876 were:

Be kind  
The merry schoolboy  
The sweet valley  
Holiday song  
God save the Queen  
Little blue jay  
Be in time  
Rain  
The daisy  
To the fields  
Gone are the days

Poor attendance was a constant problem at Kingsland School as the new headmaster, Mr. Alfred Latham, reported in 1879 that of the 110 children on roll, the average attendance was 45.3. Children had no experience of Grammar, Geography or Literature, and in an attempt to improve matters, he introduced homework. The School Managers agreed to the appointment of a pupil monitor, Ada Davies, who eventually became a pupil teacher. The number on roll increased dramatically in the early months of 1882 when 34 children transferred from the Kingsland Wesleyan School.

The headmaster was shocked to receive an unexpected visitor one morning in December 1881. A Mrs. J . . . demanded to see the Pupil Teacher and accused him of being the father of her daughter's newly born child. The Rev. Bradley then visited the school and sent the distraught teacher home with instructions to return the next day with his parents. He returned with his mother and in the presence of Rev. Bradley and the headteacher,

kissed the New Testament and swore on oath that no impropriety had taken place between him and the young lady.

A report in 1891 said that "The offices (toilets) are well separated, but are hardly sufficient in accommodation." However, in 1892 new toilets were constructed for the girls and a porch for the infants. The Managers were urged to provide a coal house and ash-pit for the school. Complaints were made by the inspector that the premises were untidy and the offices were not clean.

Mr. Latham resigned at the end of 1879 and was succeeded in January 1888 by Edward Wall. The weather was so severe, with 20 degrees of frost, that most children were unable to get to school as the roads were blocked with snow. There were considerable problems with parents not paying school fees and, as the situation deteriorated, the Managers met and the Master and Mistress were given notice to leave.

They were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bugden and in July, when the school was examined by Mr. Colt Williams, the Rev. Bradley, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Edwards, a great improvement was reported. Mr. Bugden was succeeded by John Carter (1887) and William Pritchard (1887 - 94) under whom conditions continued to improve. The last reference to collecting school fees was in November 1890.

"Prepared a list of children attending school with their payment of school fees" and "Notices from the Managers have today been sent to all children who do not regularly pay their school fees". On October 13th 1891 "This is the first day for the children to have free schooling, the Managers having accepted Free Grant from the commencement of the Free Education Act".



*Learning about Victorian Life.  
A Lesson in The Victorian  
Classroom at Hartlebury Castle  
with Miss A. Brown, 1989*



*Kingsland School in 1908 showing Mrs. Nock, the wife of the Headmaster*

## MR. JAMES NOCK

James Nock was appointed in October 1894. He was assisted by his wife who taught the infants and needlework, Ethel Bennett and Dora Reynolds (monitress). Mr. and Mrs. Nock lived in the school house, now the staffroom and office. Photographs taken in 1908 show the boundary wall and double gates which are still in use today. The pump was in use until 1938 when it was ordered to be locked since the water was polluted. A new well, on the Glebe, was sunk in 1939 and still supplies water to the Horsa Hut. Funds for the new well were raised by a jumble sale which realised £13.12s.7d.

A Penny Bank was opened at the school in 1896 and in that year conditions for the pupils improved when the lighting was improved and back rests fitted to the benches on the tiered gallery, seating 35 children, which was sited at the north east corner of what is now the school hall.

Heating was improved in 1903 with the installation of stoves.

"The work proceeds in a different manner even on the coldest days to what it did before the stoves were put in."

The number of children attending Kingsland School increased with the average attendance of 144.8 in 1909. However, there were still a hard core of irregular attenders who were reported to the attendance officer. Some children being admitted to the school had received very little early education,

"8th November 1897 ---- has been admitted today. He is nearly 11 years of age and he does not know his alphabet and very little else".

Both general and Diocesan reports are very favourable during this period and the day to day lessons were enlivened on occasions by "new inventions" - 13th December 1906 -

"After a tea given by Mrs. Price of Stanley Villa, they had a splendid entertainment through Mr.

Cockerton's kindness in bringing his phonograph which delighted the children for two hours. 27th November 1907 - "Mr. Basil Jobling (Manager's Correspondent) came this afternoon and gave the children a magic lantern show on a trip from Land's End to John O'Groats".

The girls had been receiving regular sewing lessons from Mrs. Nock and in 1908 it was decided that the boys should receive gardening tuition under the guidance of Mr. Charles Sankey (great, great grandfather of Rebecca Sankey, a present pupil) who had a saddle shop in the village and was famous for making leather footballs.

"A gardening class will commence today, Thursday, 14th May, and will be continued on Tuesdays and Thursdays from eleven to twelve o'clock in the mornings. Mr. Sankey has been appointed teacher in this subject and the work will be carried out in his garden".

If Mr. Nock wished to commend a boy for good work he would say "There is a boy who will earn his £1 a week".

The condition of the school and school house caused the Managers considerable concern during 1911 and 1912 and it was decided at the managers' Meeting in May 1912 to investigate the cost of building a new house (now known as Outer Bailey) for the headmaster and turning the present house into a school room. Funding for the house, which was completed in 1913, was from the Trustees of the late Dr. Hamlyn-Williams's estate. The alterations to the school, after considerable problems, including an emergency Managers' meeting after a contractor was ordered to leave the site immediately, were eventually completed at a cost of £232.

A report by H.M.I. Mr. Theobald of 8th July 1915 shows that the new school house was already in need of improvements.

"The Headteacher's house, built within the last three years, has never been provided with sanitary conveniences of its own, and consequently the only offices for the use of the Master and his household are those of the school itself. The extreme undesirability and unsuitability of such conditions are obvious and steps should be taken as soon as possible to make good the omission".

School life would have been much more formal than today, and although a teacher would have commanded respect and obedience, discipline must have been difficult with such large classes and little support. The School Log Book between 1874 and 1900 shows that, as in any school, problems occurred:

26th October, 1874 - W. Brown was punished with four stripes on his hands for playing truant on Friday, 23rd day of October 1874 and one stripe in addition for telling a lie.

5th November, 1877 - Three boys were punished for playing truant by keeping them in to write out a lesson.

1884 - An assistant teacher was cautioned for "boxing" a child's ears.

June 1885 - Caned ---- this morning for continued idleness and talking during arithmetic lesson.

29th July, 1886 - It being reported to the Managers that boys have been in the habit of introducing themselves into the girls' offices, the Managers hereby authorise Mr. Bugden to punish by severe flogging, any boy so offending, and hereby agree that the punishment for the second offence shall be expulsion from the school.

29th May, 1888 - Mr. Smith, Attendance Officer, called this morning about ----- throwing stones and breaking the windows.



*Continuing a Victorian Tradition,  
Maypole Dancing at the  
Church Fete 1994*

## THE FIRST WORLD WAR

War was declared in 1914 and had an immediate effect upon the life of the school. Children were allowed to take extra holidays to help with the harvest and the log reports that holidays were extended throughout the war to allow wheat, hops and potatoes to be harvested.

The children played their part in the war effort by contributing wool and knitting clothes for the soldiers at the front. The log for 30th October, 1914 reads,

"The scholars have taken great interest in their work for the soldiers. Some are making helmets and belts in addition to socks, scarves and mittens. The boys and girls of the school have subscribed over a sovereign already for the purchase of wool".

A parcel of comforts made by the children was sent to Queen Mary and a letter of thanks was received.

In May 1915 the children brought 86 eggs to school to be forwarded to hospitals caring for wounded soldiers and sailors. The same month the sum of eight shillings and four pence was raised towards the building of a "children's hut" for the soldiers. The Secretary for the War Emergency Fund, thanking the children, praised them for their patriotic action and enclosed some commemoration stamps and a scroll.

The fears of invasion was ever present and in May 1915 the Managers agreed to insure the

school against damage by enemy aircraft at a cost of £2.10s.0d. Heavy snow and illness (sores on faces and bodies) had considerably reduced attendances in early 1916 and a great storm in February prevented most of the children getting to school. Later in the year the children collected £1.13s.0d. which was sent to Dr. Barnardos, a charity which Kingsland School continues to support. In autumn 1995 the children decorated eggs in a sponsored event for Barnardos as it is now known.

Life was not always hard during the war and there are several occasions when the school was closed so that the children could perform maypole dances around the surrounding area.

In October 1917 the Food Production Department appealed for the collection of blackberries to make jam for the soldiers and sailors. The Board of Education allowed the children to miss afternoon school to pick and in all 7 cwt. was collected.

On 11th November, 1918 a telegram was received at the Post Office

"Armistice signed at five o'clock this morning".

The children were given a half day holiday. King George V granted all schools an extra week's holiday to celebrate peace and this was taken in September 1919 after the traditional harvest holiday.

*Gift to the Troops at the Front.  
From the Queen and the Women of the Empire.  
Devonshire House  
Piccadilly  
Nov. 1914  
The Lady in waiting is commanded  
by the Queen to thank Mrs Nock and  
the children of Kingsland School  
most heartily for their very kind  
gift of comforts for the use of the  
Troops at the Front.  
Her Majesty highly appreciated  
their contribution.*

## BETWEEN THE WARS

Kingsland School, like so many communities, lost fathers, brothers and uncles during the Great War, as the poignant list of those who gave their lives is remembered in church each Remembrance Sunday testifies, and this must have had a deep effect on the children. However, in the years immediately after the war the academic progress of the school was remarked upon by the Diocesan Inspectors.

In October 1920, it was decided to begin cookery lessons and these were held at St. Mary's Farm, the home of Mr. Joseph Price. Fourteen girls attended in the first year, among them Margaret Markham, who now lives in South Africa and Margery Mitchell, now Mrs. Bodenham of Ludlow.

Mrs. Nock retired in June 1923 after 29 years at the school and was presented with a gold brooch, set with a circle of aquamarines with a pearl in the centre. Despite her official retirement, she continued to support the school, acting as a supply teacher and, with other members of staff, subscribing to buy a much needed new piano in 1926. One of the assistants at this time was Mr. and Mrs. Nock's daughter, Gladys, but on her marriage in 1926, her duties as uncertified assistant was taken over by her sister-in-law Miss Mary Morgan. Gladys lived at the School House as a child and her son Arthur remembers her saying that she used to play "keep the pot boiling" - running up the stairs, climbing out of the bedroom window, sliding down

the sloping roof and running round the house to start again - not the image one has of a well brought up Edwardian child. Gladys has recently died at the age of 96 and was driving her car until only a few years ago.

George Wall of Cobnash, who started Kingsland School in 1921, remembers singing at Gladys Nock's wedding when each child received a bag of very sticky sweets.

He said that Mr. Nock was very fond of golf and would practice by hitting many balls from "The Greens" towards the church. He would give the children a penny for each ball they recovered, quite a source of income. In 1929 George travelled to Leominster Grammar School to take the entrance examination and obtained a Pierrepont Scholarship to Lucton School. He still has the Bible he was given as part of the scholarship. Some memories are not so happy, Bert Crump recalls being caned by Mr. Nock in 1929, when he was five years old, for kissing a girl.

Courses in "Manual Instruction" (Woodwork) were began at Leominster Church Institute in 1929 and eighteen boys were taken by bus each Friday morning for tuition.

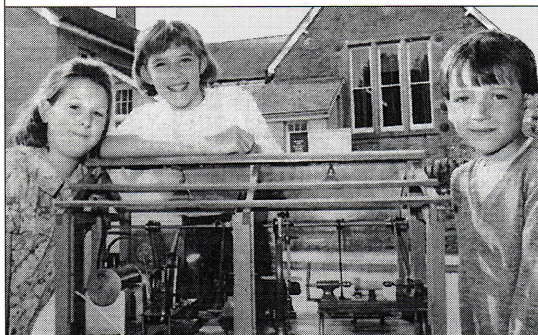
Mr. Nock retired in January 1931, when a special assembly was held and gifts, including an illuminated address, signed by the Managers and giving the names of parents of all the children attending the school, were presented by the children.

### SCHOOL EARNS TOP AWARD

What was described as a real team effort has earned a North Herefordshire school a top award for the best school museum in the county. Kingsland Primary School picked up first prize in Hereford and Worcester county museum's search for the School Museum of the Year 1993.

Last Friday the schools went along to the county museum at Hartlebury Castle to be presented with their prize of a 35mm camera, books and wooden reproduction toys.

Kingsland undertook a project on the Victorians in the spring term and then entered it in the competition's seven to eleven age group.



Head teacher Phil Jones said it had been a community effort with many of the villagers lending artifacts for display.

The mini museum was set up in the hall of the 140 year-old building with members of the public coming in to view the old school log books and admission registers.

"All in all it was a real team effort with many parents coming into school each week to work alongside the staff," he said.

Groups studied particular aspects of Victoriana and reported their findings to the school as a whole at the end of the project which was also recorded on video.

Topics included Victorian cameras and techniques, clipper ships, Victorian tiles, working children, quill pens and Victorian toys, with replicas made by the children.

All winning entries will be displayed at the county museum during June and July.

◀◀◀ *Kingsland School pupils with a model of a Victorian factory.*

## MR. C. T. JONES

Mr. Nock was succeeded by Mr. C. T. Jones who was to be headmaster of Kingsland School until 1967. Mr. Jones had been a teacher at Kington School and continued to live there for sometime until he moved into the schoolhouse. On one occasion he forgot the school keys and school could not begin until he had returned to Kington to fetch them.

The first evidence of a school uniform is found in the school log of 1931 when caps and hats, with the school badge, were issued to children. During the same year a wireless was brought into school for the first time for the children to listen to the service from the Cenotaph on 11th November. The B.B.C. installed the school's own H.M.V. radiogram in 1936, funds for this being raised by holding a school concert. At this time there were 110 pupils on roll, although numbers in May and June 1933 were depleted by chicken pox, only 72 being in school. This resulted in the school being closed by Inspector Bull for disinfecting.

The times of lessons seem to have been very flexible at this time, school being closed half day for maypole carrying, the local foal show, the Oddfellows' fete, Leominster, Kingsland and Pembridge fairs and the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Hereford as well as the traditional holiday after religious festivals. On several occasions afternoon school was begun later than usual so that female members of staff could attend Women's Institute fetes and teas. Holidays seem to have been rather too flexible however in 1937 as it was discovered that the school was one half day short in opening and all children and staff had to attend on Good Friday.

At this time the local doctor was Douglas Vaughan, whose family still farm at St. Mary's. He was responsible for the school medicals and, before the National Health Service was introduced, was paid directly by the school - 7s.6d. for one term's medicals. Dr. Vaughan was the fifth generation of doctors in his family and retired in 1965.



*Infant Class 1934 with Miss M. Morgan*

His practice was taken over by his son, Geoffrey (who later emigrated to New Zealand) and Nick Ovenden who continues to "patch up" our children after their playground misadventures and to support the school in many other ways.

In February 1933, twelve girls began a three week course on Dairying and Poultry Keeping by Miss Jones of the County Council Agricultural Education Committee. Further evidence of Kingsland's rural situation is given later in the term when the senior boys spent the afternoon repairing damage done by cows to the sports field fencing.

During 1934 alterations were made to the school and arrangements were made for the older children from Shobdon to transfer to Kingsland. Fifteen children started in April, travelling initially by car, and bringing the number on roll to 121. School milk was first provided for the children in January 1934 with 86 children choosing to have it. Kingsland children are still able to have subsidised milk in 1/2 pint bottles, now at a cost of 10p per day.

The condition of the school was again giving cause for concern and in 1935 the middle room required a new wooden floor with a concrete base for the stove and a new stove in the infants' room. December of that year saw the installation of electricity to the school, this being celebrated by a lantern slide show. The Pembridge Players gave a performance in school in aid of the School Lighting and Wireless Fund and a cheque for £1.0s.0d. was received from the jockey Fred Fox, a former pupil. The schools broadcasting lessons were began in

April 1936 using the new H.M.V. radiogram and in May the children listened to the live broadcast of the maiden voyage of the "Queen Mary".

Shobdon children were now transported to school by bus but this was not always without incident - punctures, roads closed through flooding and fallen trees and on 15th July, 1937,

"Several Shobdon children absent owing to shock of axle-shaft breaking on bus last evening. This caused the bus to run back on Rock Pitch".

Mrs. Mary Sankey started school in 1937 and recalls how she repeatedly ran home and cried so much in the first weeks that her older sister had to be brought in to look after her. She was caned for not knowing her Collect.

In the 1930's many children cycled to school and in 1939 a concert was held to raise funds to build a cycle shelter. This was converted to a games shed in 1993.

At this time the open pits at the back of the toilets would be cleaned out each holiday by wheelbarrow to a horse and cart on the roadside where it would be taken to be tipped at Cobnash. "Toilet paper", if available, was ripped-up newspaper.

It was the habit of certain boys to lift up the wooden shutters at the back of the toilets and, using nettles, sting the bottoms of the girls as they sat on the wooden seats over the pits. One day, the teacher, Miss E. Morgan, used the girls' toilet and was badly stung!



*Children, Parents and Staff Carol Singing at Kingsland Rectory*

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Second World War was declared on 4th September, 1939 and plans were soon made for children from the cities to be evacuated to the country, and this was to cause considerable disruption.

The first children from Liverpool arrived, with their teacher, Miss Seagrove, on 1st September when they were met by the headmaster, Mr. C. T. Jones and teachers Mrs. Davies and Miss M. E. Morgan who showed them round the school. The local children had been given an extra week's holiday to help with hop-picking and school officially re-opened on 2nd October with Kingsland children attending in the mornings and the Liverpool children in the afternoons. Later the school was reorganised to allow all the children to attend full-time. The upper classes were all moved into the big room and the infants into the middle room, leaving the infants' room for the Liverpool children. As the war progressed many of the children returned home although some remained with their host parents and became "village children". The three Pratt boys, Kenny, Doug and Geoff (who came from Harwich) have kept in touch with their

host village, indeed Geoff married Margaret Postans from Cobnash and now lives in Hereford.

Another evacuee family, the Garrisons, were bombed out of Coventry and came to live at Ledi-cott. Fred attended Kingsland School and after living in Leominster has moved back to Kingsland and now sings in the church choir.

The older Liverpool children joined the Kingsland children travelling to Leominster for wood-work and domestic science, but the bus service was poor and the premises in Leominster were often closed for war use.

There was sadness in May 1940 when the sudden death of the former headmaster, Mr. Nock, was announced and the staff and choir attended a memorial service at the church.

The problem of overcrowding at the school was increased when a party of evacuee children arrived from Harwich in June 1940. Eventually they were taught at The Bungalow in North Road, formally used for billiards and air gun shooting, but attended the school for special subjects such as music. The building was destroyed by fire on 26th March,



*Junior Children in 1941, including evacuees Teacher Miss E. Morgan*

1941, all books, desks and equipment being lost. Most of this equipment had been loaned by the School and the cost of that destroyed amounted to £15.3s.3d. Lessons for the Harwich children were continued in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

In October 1941, a small contingent of Bootle children arrived and a letter from the Director of Education, Mr. A. P. Whitehead, dated 18th October confirms that the merging of the Liverpool and Bootle children with those from Kingsland and Harwich had now been completed.

Everything did not always go smoothly at school as the following entry (with their permission) in the log shows,

"6th December 1939 - Ronald Traylor with Leslie Millard, went off without permission during the dinner hour on bicycles. The former fell off and was badly injured".

Tragically, one of the Harwich evacuees, David York, was knocked down and killed while crossing the road after leaving the Shobdon bus. At his funeral the younger children lined the pathway as the cortege passed the school and the older children formed a guard of honour at the church. The choir was formed by boys of the school.

As in World War One, school holidays were extended so that harvesting could be completed and in October 1942 permits were given allowing

older children to be released from school in mid term to pick potatoes. The children also helped the war effort by fund raising and £110.13s.0d. was raised for the "Wings for Victory" campaign and £47.10s.0d. for "Schools War Weapons Week".

The children's respirators were regularly checked and they often received talks on the progress of the war. In July 1944 a Mrs. Wheelock brought a captured Nazi flag to school for the children to see. The windows of the school had been covered with "anti-shatter" material as protection from bomb damage, but when some was removed, the smell of the stripper was so unpleasant that the children had to be sent home, the school remaining closed for five days.

Despite wartime food rationing, the school was able to hold a Christmas party "with the help of a permit from the food office and eatables sent by parents, there was 'enough and to spare' for tea. An entertainment followed". Presents were sent by wellwishers for the evacuee children.

After the long years of war, Victory in Europe was declared on 8th May 1945 and the children were given two days holiday and celebrated with a party. Victory in the Far East was not achieved until 15th August when V. J. Day was celebrated with a sports and tea for the children.



*Samantha Lewis, Harriot Leyton-Purrier and James Somers with the model of the school and history of the school made for Kingsland Church Flower Festival 1992*

## THE POST WAR YEARS

Peace may have come, but austerity continued and school holidays were still extended to allow the harvesting to be completed. The 103 children on roll were thrilled to be taken to the Kemble Theatre, Hereford to see a pantomime, travelling by Markham's bus, and being given a tea at school afterwards.

Singing continued to play an important part in school life and the older children travelled to Leominster for a carol concert and, in 1946, were given time off school to sing at a local wedding. The church choir consisted of men and boy sopranos. Mr. Jones would practice after school with the boys, teaching anthems and carols for special occasions.

The telephone was installed in school on 10th October, 1946 - Kingsland 436, but the local identity was lost in 1994 when all local exchanges became digital. In 1995 a fax machine was purchased for all the schools in the Wigmore schools pyramid.

After the war the former camp at Shobdon was used to house Polish families and the first Polish

children were admitted to Kingsland School in November 1946.

Heavy snow fell during February 1947 with children making great efforts to get to school. However conditions became much worse in March with very heavy snowfalls and on several occasions Markham's bus was unable to operate. School dinners were unable to be delivered and soup was made for the 37 out of 116 children who managed to get to school. Cliff Davis got into trouble during this winter when he was sliding on ice "out of bounds". He fell on a stick frozen in the ice, badly cutting his leg, and still has the scar to prove it! He ended up going to the pantomime in Hereford on crutches. As the snow melted, there was severe flooding at The Rectory, Lugg Green and The Brook, again reducing attendance. A pupil, Brian Jones, fell into the deep water in "The Dingle" during the afternoon break and had to be sent home.

The severe winter caused the postponement of the County Entrance Examinations and these were



*Infant Class 1947  
Compare Cliff Davis (front row, 4th from left) with our Governor 1991*



*Senior children with Headmaster Mr. C. T. Jones - 1939*

finally taken in April. Eight children gained free places at Leominster Secondary School and two, including Cliff Davis, were awarded the Pierrepont Scholarship to Lucton. As well as paying school fees, this scholarship provided a uniform, a bible and a small amount of money each year into a Post Office savings account.

In May 1947 a presentation of a Savings Certificate was made to Audrey Mason, a niece of infants teacher Miss M. E. Morgan and now living in Brighton, for five years perfect attendance. The children celebrated the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 20th November with a holiday.

Kingsland became an "all age" school in May 1948, receiving children from Eardisland, Yarpole, Aymestrey and Orleton as well as those already travelling from Shobdon. They were taught in the Cadet Hut, situated at the far end of the playing field, which was then an orchard. The teacher in charge, Mr. Lambert, soon cultivated a flourishing garden and kept bees. When he left the school he offered the hive to Ruth Humphries, now Mrs. Les Millard, but to her sorrow her father would not let

her keep it. The children would try to get the fruit from the trees surrounding the Cadet Hut. One day Jim Bufton threw a piece of concrete to try and dislodge some apples, but it fell on Diana Rayner, badly cutting her head. Ruth still remembers the blood flowing down her face.

Ruth was one of the first pupils to be taught in the Cadet Hut when she transferred from Eardisland C. E. School and in 1949 moved with her class into the Horsa Hut, located at the south end of the playground. The Horsa Hut continued to be used as a classroom for the senior children until 1963 when the new secondary schools at Weobley and Wigmore were opened, and all children transferred from their primary school at 11 years of age. It then became an infant classroom until the new classroom block was opened in 1978. Mr. Chappell says that, sited so far from the school, it was a long walk in all weathers for the little ones to attend assembly or visit the toilet. The fumes from the stove in the winter made life very unpleasant.

In recent years the Horsa Hut has been used as the Club House for Kingsland Bowling Club and, since the conversion of the former kitchen into a

classroom, by Kingsland Nursery. The Bowling Club is now building a new Club House to the rear of Edgefield Nursing Home.

At this time a County music specialist, Miss Fildes, called regularly to teach the children. Today, we are fortunate in still having peripatetic music lessons with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Aldred visiting the school weekly to teach junior children the clarinet and flute.

The senior children would travel weekly to Leintwardine by Markham's bus where a wood-work and domestic science centre had been opened for the children of the district. The increase in numbers due to the admission of the senior children began to cause problems and in 1950, with 145 on roll, the school was unable to accept the children from the Shobdon camp. This was highlighted in the government report of 1951 -

"There are three classrooms in the main block and a temporary hutted room. The largest room accommodates two classes, totalling 61 pupils, under very crowded conditions, separated by a curtain. Just over 100 children stay to lunch but the rooms are very inconvenient for the purpose. The playground has been damaged by the heavy

vehicles during the erection of the new classroom. Gardening classes have suffered by severe damage by cattle. The sanitary conditions are primitive, but a scheme has been put forward by the Managers for improvement. The academic achievements are praised and it is noted that the headmaster and three assistant teachers have given nearly a hundred years service to the school".

The highlight of 1951 was the visit by 32 children and staff to the Festival of Britain in London. State events dominated the next years with sadness at the death of King George VI on the 6th February 1952. The children gathered to listen to his funeral on the radio, but there was celebration for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953 when the children were given two days' holiday and later watched a film of the events.

Work began on the much needed new toilet block in September 1953 but progress was slow due to a severe shortage of bricks, and it was not until 1962 that hot water was finally installed. For many years the school was used for meetings, socials, dances etc., every organisation in the village making use of the school in the evenings and holidays and there must often have been considerable inconvenience to



*Standard 6 - 1958 when Kingsland was an All Age School  
Teacher - Mr. Welson*

the school. In November 1953 the village hall, The Coronation Hall, was opened and the log read,

"New Village Hall opened with special pleasure and best wishes from staff and scholars who have endured the use of the school for all functions for so long".

The bay window in the middle room was declared unsafe in 1955 and was replaced with double wooden doors. These have lasted until 1995 when they were replaced by UPVC double glazed doors.

The annual visit to the pantomime in Hereford was cancelled in 1956 due to petrol restrictions, but a very successful party was held in the village hall at which a presentation was made to Mrs. Davies who retired after 37 years at the school. 1958 saw the retirement of Miss E. A. Morgan after 30 years at the school. Music played an important part in the life of the school with the children attending music festivals in Leominster and Hereford and hosting an area festival in the village hall. A memorable production was "From Knighthood to Kingship", the story of the Mortimer family, written by teacher Mr. Welson, who went on to become headmaster of Almeley School.

The severe winter of 1962/63 caused the water supply to the toilets and scullery to be frozen for nearly six weeks and all the water had to be carried from the school house. Mr. Jones records,

"As a result of the severe weather the road surfaces were breaking up everywhere. In some places mud is erupting in the middle of the road to 12" or 16" in height".

Mr. Jones must have been very grateful for the help of the older boys at such times. Terry Davies recalls being paid by C. T. to carry the coal and keep the stoves going. He was also paid to help in the schoolhouse garden.

1963 saw great changes in Kingsland School. After much debate, it had been decided to build rural secondary schools at Weobley and Wigmore

and the majority of Kingsland children over the age of eleven would be transferring to Wigmore. Mr. Tonkin, the headmaster of the new Wigmore school, visited Kingsland several times to ease the move of the senior children. Kingsland School was to be staffed by three teachers and the middle room was now able to be used as a hall for assembly, P. E. and meals. Much of the equipment used for the senior children was removed, but a new climbing frame was installed in the hall which was soon to be fitted with overhead heaters. The rest of the school was heated by coal, the dilapidated fuel store being sited at the front of the school. Later an oil stove was fitted in what is now the office and Mrs. Mary Sankey, then the cleaner, remembers being terrified when the top blew off. Mrs. Sankey's mother, also an ex pupil, was cleaner in the days when the school was lit by hurricane lamps. On one occasion Ernie Jarrett ran off with the lamp, leaving her in the dark.

Mr. Jones retired in March 1967 after 36 years at the school, when he was thanked at a special service. Many pupils have happy memories of Mr. Jones who, living in the village for so many years, became a major influence in the community, not least as Layreader and choirmaster. He was always interested in his former pupils' progress, and living in the village after his retirement was able to keep in touch with them. John Chappell remembers his help and encouragement when he became headmaster of the school.

One less happy memory of governor Cliff Davis was when about twenty boys went out of bounds into a very wet, muddy field and had a mud clod fight, getting covered with mud. All were caned, including Cliff and Mr. Jones' own son Kenyon.

Cliff also remembers Mr. Jones' athletic prowess - a Shobdon boy, on being reprimanded for bad behaviour, ran out of the school, through the gate into the field with Mr. Jones in pursuit. Mr. Jones vaulted the gate but landed on another pupil, George Cross.

## MR. G. C. LUND

Mr. Granville Lund had previously been employed at Scudamore School in Hereford and took up the post of headmaster in April 1967. The other members of staff were Miss June Davies and Miss M. E. Morgan.

A major purchase at this time was a spirit duplicator (still in school) and, in September 1967, a television was purchased, one of the first programmes being the launch of the liner Queen Elizabeth II. After negotiations with the Coronation Hall Committee, it was agreed that the field to the rear of the hall be used as a playing field, as it still is today.

Meanwhile tests had showed that the water was polluted and would have to be boiled before drinking. A boiler was collected from the Education Department and all water had to be boiled for the next fifteen months, when at last the mains water was connected. This had been a major undertaking

in the village, the supply coming from the River Lugg at Byton and being pumped into a reservoir at Shobdon. Work had progressed well from Mortimer's Cross, but the water table was so high in the village that special PVC pipes had to be laid from the Corners Inn. 1965 also saw the introduction of mains sewage to the village, a plan which had been under consideration since 1856!

On 23rd November 1963 it was reported that an outbreak of foot and mouth disease had occurred at Bosbury. This was to be the worst outbreak the county has ever experienced, with many farmers losing their livelihood. Local farms put up "No Callers Please" signs and the Director of Education recommended that public gatherings such as speech days be cancelled. The children of Kingsland were told not to enter the nearby farms and straw was placed at the school gate. Games fixtures with local schools were cancelled.



Staff 1970 - 71

Mrs. E. Pugh   Mrs. J. A. Talyor   Mr. G. C. Lund   Mrs. J. M. Turner

Aymestrey School was closed in 1965 and eleven children transferred to Kingsland bringing the number on roll to 71 and allowing the employment of another assistant teacher, Mrs. Rowberry.

1968 saw the first of many meetings of the School Managers to discuss the provision of a kitchen, so that meals could be cooked on the premises, and additional classrooms. It was proposed that a new school be built, but due to lack of funding (haven't we heard that before!) this was not to be, but plans were submitted for a kitchen and servery and to take down the partition between classes 1 and 2 and make a headteacher's office.

Miss M. Morgan retired at the end of the summer term after 44 years with the school, having begun teaching here in 1924. Miss Morgan contributed greatly to the education and wellbeing of the many pupils who passed through her hands over such a long period.

Tribute was paid to her devotion to the school and the local community. The family tradition of service to Kingsland School continued when teacher Miss June Davies became engaged in 1970 to Miss Morgan's nephew Arthur Morgan. He is the son of Gladys Morgan (nee Nock) and grandson of former teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Nock. June and Arthur's daughter Carol was also a pupil at the school (with Mr. John Chappell) and is now at Aberystwyth University.

Mr. Lund ended the year with this delightful quote in the school log (shown here with his permission),

"A note of passing interest. I think that probably a record was made today, the first day of the holidays and all the staff were in school - voluntarily!!"

Mr. Lund was responsible for organising the first foreign visit by Kingsland School when a very successful visit was made to Belgium during the summer holidays of 1969. A popular event during the 1960's was the annual bulb show where children from schools in the Wigmore area exhibited their flowers. The bulbs were provided by the schools and grown at home.

Mr. Lund was a keen musician and organised several concerts with Hereford Police Choir in attendance. He was an accomplished musician and as well as arranging items of music, gave solo performances from Rigoletto.

It was during Mr. Lund's headship that the Parent Teacher Association was formed. The first

meeting was held in January 1969 when the president was the Rector, Chairman - Mr. Cross, Vice Chairman - Mrs. Lund, Secretary - Mr. C. Burleigh and Treasurer - Mr. Owen. At that time there was an annual subscription of 5s.0d. Over the years the P.T.A. has held many fund raising and social events and been of great support to the school. The most popular events have been the annual summer fair, craft fairs, fashion shows and the greatly enjoyed domino drive. Funds raised have subsidised the Christmas party and have provided much appreciated books, musical instruments and recently new dining tables. Mr. Bill Somers organises a P.T.A. "100 Club" which causes much excitement at its monthly draw and has provided a new computer for the school.

Decimal coinage was introduced in February 1971 and staff attended several meetings prior to change over day to learn how to include the new currency in the curriculum. Dinner money was not collected as usual on the Friday, but instead on Monday, 15th February when change was given out in the new ½p, 1p and 2p units.

Mr. Lund's final year at Kingsland School saw 81 pupils on roll and he was assisted by a staff of Mrs. J. Taylor, Mrs. J. Turner, Mrs. E. Pugh and clerical assistant, Mrs. M. Kelly. A special service was held on the last day of the summer term 1971 to pay tribute to Mr. Lund and to wish him every success in his new post as headmaster of Clifton Junior School. Afterwards parents joined the staff and children for a special tea.



*Miss M. Morgan with the younger children in front of the Horsa Hut, before the playground was tarmaced*

## MR. JOHN CHAPPELL

John Chappell, a Yorkshireman, who had previously been headmaster of Stanton Lacy School took up his duties on 7th September, 1971. The first major event was the 125th anniversary of the school which was celebrated on Friday, 22nd October. A special service of thanksgiving was held in Kingsland Church in the presence of the Bishop of Hereford, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hodson, and where the hymns "Thy hand, O God has guided thy flock from age to age" and "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven" were sung. The Bishop led a procession from the school to the church and afterwards joined former members of staff for lunch at the school.

A major problem for all schools at this time was that teachers were appointed strictly on pupil numbers and one extra or fewer child could mean the gain or loss of a teacher. Kingsland was affected by this policy on several occasions when a much needed extra teacher could only be employed for the summer term when that term's intake took the number on roll over the "magic figure".

Mrs. S. Cole was appointed reception teacher in 1973 and taught in the Horsa Hut for several years. In 1978 the deputy head, Mrs. Margaret Rowatt, resigned after having a baby and Miss Annabelle Brown was appointed. She has been responsible for the production of many very enjoyable musical productions, excerpts of several having been taken to the Leominster Festival.

After much discussion, the plans were finally agreed for a new three-classroom block in the playground and the conversion of a classroom into a staffroom and office. It had been hoped to demolish the classroom nearest the road thus providing a parking area, relieving traffic congestion outside the school, and despite £2,000 being raised by the parents, a modified plan had to be implemented (How many times has this occurred in the history of Kingsland School?). Work began in February 1977 and during the disruptions the children were allowed to play on the village tennis courts. The new classrooms were dedicated on 17th November 1978 by the Bishop of Hereford, John Eastaugh, accompanied by Mr. John Cotterell, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester County Council, Mr. P. Temple-Morris, M.P. for Leominster and Mr. M. J. Gifford, Director of Education. The hymns "Stand up, stand up for Jesus" and "Teach me, my God and King", and the children sang "Thank you,

Lord, for this new day". After being shown round the school the guests signed the school log as a memento of the occasion. Swifts used to nest in the eaves of the school and when the alterations were made these were blocked off. Dr. Ovenden paid for and put up nest boxes which are still much appreciated by the swifts.

The village school at Eardisland had been under threat of closure for some time and despite an S.O.S. (Save our School) campaign it was decided to close it at the end of the summer term 1979. For some time the thirteen children with their teacher Mrs. Margaret Chappell, wife of John Chappell, had joined the children of Kingsland School for games and joint Christmas productions, these being performed in Kingsland and Eardisland churches. This was to make the transition from Eardisland to Kingsland much less painful and as the date approached the children also attended sewing and music lessons at Kingsland. The transition was followed by a group from Birmingham University who were studying the closure of rural schools and reported that the changeover had been very well organised and made as painless as possible.

Since then children from Eardisland have continued to attend Kingsland School, being brought by a free bus service. Links with Eardisland are important to the school and were maintained through P.T.A. events, such as an extremely successful Halloween party, held at Eardisland. Mr. Chappell remembers being the only man at a cookery demonstration in the former school, but to his great sadness, having to leave for another appointment just before the most important part - the tasting session.

Although numbers now make it impossible for the whole school to attend the Ascension Day service that was sometimes held in Eardisland, in recent years a group of children, parents and staff have toured the village, and also Kingsland village, carol singing. In 1994 the older children played the Eardisland Church handbells at the Eardisland carol service.

An important event in 1982 was the visit by the Bishop and Archdeacon of Hereford who were making a pilgrimage throughout the diocese to mark the 700th anniversary of the death of St. Thomas of Hereford, the last Englishman to be

canonised. The silver jubilee of the accession of the Queen was celebrated by the children planting snowdrops and crocus bulbs in the churchyard, these being provided by the Silver Jubilee Trust.

An improvement to the school was the installation of a suspended ceiling in the main hall, designed to make more effective use of the overhead radiant heaters. The men duly started work one morning but when Mr. Chappell left his classroom at breaktime, he discovered that they had fitted the ceiling below the heaters and lights, boxing them in the space above. Despite his protests the workmen refused to alter the ceiling and it was some days without heat or light before "the powers that be" sent an electrician to take down the panels and lower the heaters and lights.

The children of Kingsland School have played sport since the opening of the school and since the early years of this century have played matches against other schools in the area. Children would

often travel to Eardisland, Shobdon and Aymestrey for matches and in the 1930s and 40s, hockey was very popular. "Friendly" matches provide an ideal opportunity to visit other schools, often giving children who will be transferring to secondary school at the same time the opportunity to get to know each other. These visits also give all children, whatever their ability, the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. For many years Kingsland has also taken part in local competitions including the Wigmore football and netball tournaments and the Mitchell Hamer Cup (football) and Credenhill Cup (netball) competitions, the area finals of which are held at Kingsland where members of the Hereford United football team traditionally referee the football final. Kingsland School has had considerable success in these competitions. Mr. Chappell is a keen sportsman, a Hereford United supporter, and has always encouraged sportsmanship and many children owe their continued interest in sport to his encouragement. Stephen Price recalls that



*Junior Class 1981 including children who transferred from Eardisland School. Teachers - Mrs. Margaret Chappell and Mr. John Chappell*

Mr. Chappell introduced him to cricket in 1988 when he was eight and gave him great encouragement. Stephen went on to play for Hereford County under 11 and in 1990 was chosen as captain, a position he has held for every age group since. He has since played for England Under 14 and Under 16 teams. Stephen's first cricket captain was Victoria Caine. Mixed games were popular and Katherine Pothecary recalls "he let the girls do football if they wanted and although he was very old he was happy to go along with new ideas".

In the summer rounders are played by mixed teams and children take part in the Shobdon and Tenbury Wells tournaments and have recently had considerable success under the guidance of Mrs. Sarah Somers. The junior children also attend the swimming pool in Leominster, a much more pleasant experience since the pool was covered. It was rather a feat of endurance visiting the open air pool, with its unheated water and changing cubicles with a large gap above and below the door which opened straight onto the poolside.

All sports have their casualties as the school logs give testament to a variety of cuts and bruises. Mr. Chappell recalls,

"It was a hot day and many of the boys were wearing shorts. The batsman straight-drove the ball past the bowler and contemplated a run. His partner was watching him rather than the fielder when the ball was thrown in, hard, to the bowler's end. The ball hit the non-striking batsman behind the knee and, as it smacked into his bare flesh, he jumped a foot in the air and let out a loud expletive. Everyone roared with laughter as he hopped about in agony.

By today's standards it was a very mild expletive but, as the teacher in charge, I felt I ought to say something. Trying with difficulty to keep a straight face I asked him to try and modify his language.

"*I am* modifying my language!" came the reply".

1987 saw the introduction of the National Curriculum, with staff attending a series of courses covering its implementation. Although intended to provide a universal curriculum throughout the country it created a great deal of extra administration. New legislation has now "slimmed down" the National Curriculum to a more manageable level, but the paper work from "above" increases daily.

School visits to places connected with their studies have always been an important part of school

life and during Mr. Chappell's time at the school included visits to Ludlow Castle, the Elan Valley, Ironbridge and the County Museum at Hartlebury Castle where the children and staff dress in Victorian clothes and have a lesson in a Victorian classroom. Mr. Chappell looked so authentic in tailcoat and his white beard that a visitor to the museum mistook him for one of the permanent staff. Most of these visits have been by Markham's bus. Bryan, an ex pupil, has been an invaluable help and it was with sadness that we heard that he was no longer able to continue the bus service. He was always willing to help with the children and has visited the signal box at Hereford station and, when there was no male member of staff, in charge of taking all the boys to the toilet!

John Chappell tells this account of a visit to part of Offa's Dyke when they were studying the Saxons.

"Whilst walking along the dyke I was watching the children rather than where I was going and trod in a cow pat. This, of course, caused great amusement and was obviously the high spot of the day for many of the pupils. When, the following day, the children were asked to write about their excursion several dismissed King Offa and his dyke in a few lines but wrote at great length and in minute details about the cow pat incident and the teacher's subsequent attempts to clean it off his boots. Fortunately I had managed to modify my language!"

A heavy fall of snow in February 1991 caused considerable disruption, but also great pleasure. The only members of staff able to get into school were Mr. Chappell and Mrs. Morgan, the secretary, who were joined by just twelve children. The children were taught as one class and had a wonderful time making snowmen and snowballing the staff. It is a day that has remained in the memory of all of the children.

On another occasion Mr. Chappell recalls,

"A boy had recently enrolled at the school. He had moved about the country quite a lot and changed schools several times. Soon after his arrival there was a heavy fall of snow. All the local children knew our school rule that they would only be allowed to play in the snow if they had a coat and a pair of wellingtons. The lad had a coat but no wellingtons, so he was asked to remain indoors at playtime. He watched dejectedly, through the window at the other children having fun with snow-

balls and snowmen. He was such a pathetic figure that two of us searched amongst the unclaimed lost property in the store room until we found an old pair that fitted him. He was over the moon. He thanked us profusely and assured us that Kingsland was the *very very* best school he had ever attended and that *nobody* at any of his other schools would have been so kind. He was absolutely ecstatic as he ran off to enjoy the snow with his friends. I've never seen a child quite so overjoyed at what, to us, was a very minor incident and all in a day's work.

Talking to Mr. Chappell about his twenty years at Kingsland School brought back many memories and amusing incidents and he is quite happy to tell this incident against himself,

"One afternoon I was reading a story to the children - a time when I discouraged any interruptions. One boy put up his hand but, as I was at a vital part of the story, I ignored him for a while. He became more and more agitated so at last I asked him what was the matter and added that I hoped it was important.

"Yes, it's very important, sir".

"Well, what is it?"

"Please sir, your flies are undone!"

All pupils will remember Mr. Chappell's frequent sorties onto the roof to retrieve lost balls. Katherine Potheary tells,



*The governors of Kingsland of School, on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. John Chappell, July, 1991.  
Mrs. W. Priday, Mrs. G. M. B. Rees, Mrs. P. Greene, Mrs. M. Williams,  
Mrs. J. Vaughan, Rev. Preb. S. B. Thomas (Chairman), Mr. J. C. Chappell (Headmaster), Mr. C. Davis,  
Miss A. F. Brown (Deputy Head), Mr. M. Bishop, Mrs. J. Morgan (Clerk to the Governors),  
Mr. D. Noon (Vice Chairman), Mrs. Johnson.  
These governors are still serving in 1996, with the addition of Mr. S. Perkins (insert) (Parent Governor),  
and Mrs. S. Somers (Teacher Representative).*

"When I was very little I remember seeing little tufts of white hair when Mr. Chappell climbed on the roof to collect the balls."

This contrasts with her older brother, James, saying when he first started school,

"We had the black man today." - The passing of time showing in the changing colour of John Chappell's hair and beard?

These rooftop visits were featured, together with the famous "smiley", the smiling faces Mr. Chappell would draw on books for good work and which he held at the back of the hall to encourage his pupils during performances, in a song written by parent Brian Watkins to mark Mr. Chappell's

retirement in July 1991. It was secretly recorded by the children and sung at a reception following a special end of term service. This was attended by the Diocesan Director of Education, the Divisional Education Officer, past and present pupils, parents, staff and governors. Mr. Chappell was presented with a cheque, mountaineering boots and a picture of Eskdale as well as an album of photographs taken secretly over the previous year. Mrs. Chappell who had left the school in 1981 to become deputy head at Leintwardine School, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. This was a very happy occasion, a fitting thank you for twenty years devoted service to the school.

## SCHOOL MEALS

Until 1943 children went home for lunch or brought their own sandwiches. Cooked meals were introduced in July 1943, at a cost of 5d. per day, when they were brought from a central kitchen at Leominster in hot lockers and served to the children. These were dependant on the delivery van and on several occasions the children were sent home because the van had broken down. By 1964 the cost of a meal was 1s. 0d.

Plans were submitted for a kitchen at the school in 1968 and the first meals were served in September 1970, supplying Eardisland and Shobdon schools as well as Kingsland. The first cook was Mrs. Green, assisted by Mrs. Woodfield, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Williams, later to be joined by Mrs. Norman. They were responsible for the cooking and serving of the meals, but on one occasion the ingredients for the sweet did not arrive so Weetabix was served, much to the delight of the children.

There were major problems when strikes in the electricity industry caused frequent power cuts. The kitchen was all electric and Mr. Lund had to purchase a two-ring gas burner to enable lunches to be prepared.

In 1982 the Local Education Authority decided that it would no longer provide meals in primary schools. The last meal was cooked and a presentation was made to Mrs. Ivy Jones and Mrs. Violet Perrigo on 28th May. The equipment was sold and the room used for storage for several years until it was occupied by Kingsland Nursery which was formed by Mrs. Sarah Somers and Mrs. Valerie Davis. This successful arrangement continued, with the children joining the older children on occasions such as Harvest Festival, until increased numbers meant that a fifth class had to use the main hall for lessons. In 1994 the nursery moved to the Bowling Club and the former kitchen was converted into a new classroom.

During this time all children brought a packed lunch, but in September 1995 hot meals were re-introduced. They are provided by Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Griffiths and their daughter Shirley, of the Monument Inn, and have proved to be very popular with a varying menu. The children are given a menu for the following week on a Wednesday and return it with the items they have chosen and the money (£1.30 per day) on the Friday. These superb meals are greatly enjoyed by children and staff alike.

## HEALTH

The school logs give a vivid illustration of the health of the village children and how progress in health care, particularly in inoculations, has developed. It is often hard to imagine how serious childhood illnesses were before mass inoculation. Some excerpts from the log show the effects upon school life.

*June 1879* The school was closed by order of Dr. Sandford for one month due to malignant fever.

*July 1880* "I certify that it having been provided to me there is an epidemic of measles amongst the children attending the public schools in the Parish of Kingsland in the above Sanitary District and to prevent the spread of such epidemic I have ordered such public schools to be closed from the above date. - H. V. Sandford, Medical Officer of Health.

*29th May 1889* School closed by order of the Sanitary Officer due to illness for one month. During this time the school was thoroughly cleaned, walls limed and painted and the floor and desks scrubbed.

*June and July 1890* Many children were away with blood-shot eyes.

*November 1893 - January 1894* The school was closed by the Sanitary Inspector due to an epidemic of scarlet fever.

*1897* School closed for a few weeks due to whooping cough.

*24th February 1905* Dr. Williams called at the school and reported that the "W" family would be absent for a time as they had "itch".

The first recorded account of a school medical inspection was in 1910 and from then on frequent visits were made by the local nurse to examine the children for cleanliness and head lice. 1918 saw the

great influenza epidemic which was to kill thousands of people and the school was closed from early November 1918 to January 6th 1919 and again from February 24th for three weeks.

One of the major problems was scarlet fever and there are many entries in the log where sufferers and their contacts were sent home.

Immunisation against diphtheria was first began early in 1940 and a small room at the school was used by the Medical Officer as a clinic. Carl Davis spent several weeks in Credenhill Isolation Hospital with diphtheria. Tests and inoculations for T.B. (the B.C.G.) were introduced in the 1950's when Kingsland was an all-age school. These are now done at the local secondary school. More recently a nationwide campaign to protect all children against measles and rubella was carried out and all the children at Kingsland school were inoculated in November 1994 by a team of one doctor and two nurses in just over an hour.

In the 1920's the physiotherapist regularly attended the school to carry out treatment. Few children require such treatment today, and if necessary it is carried out at specialist units in hospital. Dental treatment was carried out at school until the 1960's, the dentist, in his mobile surgery, often being in attendance for three or four days at a time. The school dentist still makes an annual inspection but treatment is either carried out at the family dentist or the dental unit at hospital. The audi-matrician has been visiting the school since the 1930's and regular eye tests are carried out by the school nurse and the orthoptist from the Victoria Eye Hospital. School medicals and developmental tests are carried out by the School Doctor and School Nurse during the first year a pupil is in school and are readily available if problems occur at any stage in a child's school career.



*Cricket 1995.  
Winners of The Brampton - Bryan Trophy and  
Runners up in the Red Fox Tournament*

## SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Kingsland School's full title, Kingsland Church of England School, shows the foundation and continuing close links with the Church of England. The setting up of the school was due largely to the incumbent Rev. K. D. Evans and the Rectors of Kingsland have played an important part in the development of the school ever since.

The children have always attended services at Kingsland Church and it used to be the custom to have a half day's holiday afterwards. Today, the School attends church for an end of term service, harvest festival, when it is joined by the children of the Nursery, carol, Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day services. As part of its foundation, a sermon on education must be given annually and this is continued today on Education Sunday when the children from the school take an active part in the morning eucharist, reading the lesson, leading

prayers and playing clarinets, flutes, recorders and handbells. The collection from this service provides the only income for the governors of the school.

During the 1930's the children formed the church choir and there are many records of the headmaster and senior boys being absent from the school for the afternoon to sing at a funeral. Kingsland pupils and ex pupils still form an active part of the church choir and the older children have given displays of country dancing at the Church Fete for several years. The school supported a recent Church Flower Festival by exhibiting a book of the history of the school and a model of the school, both produced by the children.

As well as carol services where the infant children depict the story of the birth of Jesus while the older children read the lessons and play their musical instruments, Kingsland Church has been the venue



*"Jerusalem Joy" performed in Kingsland Church 1991*

for several major school productions. One of the most moving was "Jerusalem Joy", the story of Easter week when James Pothecary played the part of Jesus and rode Lily the donkey into church.

Throughout its history the Diocesan Board of Education has provided support. In the last century inspectors regularly visited the school with varying degrees of approval. However reports improved and in 1950 reported,

"There is a keen and active relationship between Church and School which augers well for the future of the children."

This tradition continues today with the support and guidance of Mr. Tristram Jenkins, Diocesan Director of Education.

In the 1950's and early 1960's the children were entered for the Diocesan Bible and Prayer Book Examinations with excellent results. Prizes were usually prayer books, presentation of which were made at Hereford Cathedral. A very popular annual visit is now made to Hereford Cathedral for the "Cathedral Workshops" where, joined by children from other schools in the diocese, the children work in groups acting, singing, playing musical instruments and making crafts. After lunch all the groups join for a simple act of worship incorporating the work they have done.

It has been the tradition since the 1880's for the Rector to visit the school weekly, take the Assembly

and then a lesson with the top class. The present Rector, Rev. Preb. Stephen Thomas, continues this connection and also supports the school by his concern for the wellbeing of the children, parents and staff. Preb. Thomas is the Chairman of Kingsland School Governors and gives many hours of his time to the ever increasing legislation and mountains of paperwork. His prowess as an accountant is invaluable in the setting of the school budget, an increasingly difficult task with the present economic cutbacks.

He has been known to dress up as Mrs. Mopp for Red Nose Day and accompanies the school on trips, most memorable being the visit to Hereford Station where he achieved an ambition to announce the arrival of a train over the tannoy system. Another visit which the Rector and governor, Mr. Cliff Davis (and the staff!) will never forget was the visit to Bristol to visit the S.S. Great Britain when the majority of the pupils were travel sick.

The Statement of Account, giving details of the setting up of the school, signed by the Rector on 10th December 1848 ends,

"Whoever is my successor in the Living of Kingsland, I hope he will keep up the School so as to induct the children in the principles of the Established Church."

We are indeed fortunate in having Stephen Thomas who has fulfilled this hope so well.



*Comic Relief 1988 (Left to Right) Mr. J. C. Chappell Rev. Preb. S. B. Thomas  
Mrs. S. Cole Mrs. M. Gillett Miss A. F. Brown Mrs. J. Morgan*

## THE SCHOOL CONSERVATION AREA

The school conservation area is giving the children a great deal of pleasure and in 1993 Kingsland School won the "Rachel Mary Crowther Trophy", given by Mr. and Mrs. Hal Crowther in memory of their daughter. The trophy, a carved badger was kept by the school for a year and the £100 prize money, donated by National Grid, was used to purchase two picnic tables and benches.

This account by a Year 6 pupil tells how the area was achieved.

"In 1992 it was decided that a conservation area would be constructed by the pupils of Kingsland School at the bottom of the playground. A lady named Mrs. D. Cooke came in and discussed what we needed and which trees and plants we would use. She came back several times until we had each produced a plan of what we thought it should be like. A pond was going to be made and every member of the school, including the staff should have their own tree or plant and would have to look after it.

Children from Class 5 went to Bishops Wood and made their own chestnut fencing, stile and gate. There were seven stages to the process: cutting the trees down, chopping branches off, cutting the trunks down to size, stripping the bark off, splitting down to the right width, cutting the end of the wood into a point and twisting the wire around the stakes. Each member of Class 5

including Mrs. Morgan (secretary) and Mr. Jones (headmaster) helped. It took two sessions to finish it.

At the bottom of the playground Class 5 marked out where everything was going to be put, with pegs and string. Branches and wood were collected together in a pile in the corner. Three bags of leaves were gathered up and placed in the opposite corner to provide homes for insects. The pond was dug out by the pupils and some volunteer parents. This was the first primary school to dig out a conservation area pond by hand. When the pond was finished the edges and bottom were covered with thick black pond liner. Soil had to be laid inside in order for the water plants to grow. It took a long time to fill the pond to the top with water because about 700 litres of water were needed.

Everyone went out and planted their own tree or shrub. There was a large mound of soil so we had to flatten it out by digging it away from the top. We planted cowslips, which are rarely seen, and put flower beds in front of the fence. One child put in a jar of frogspawn and two watersnails and others put in some newts. A lump of clay was moulded around the roots of each pond plant so that they would sink to the bottom.

We sometimes go into the conservation area at playtimes to watch the frogs grow. It has been a very enjoyable project and it is a pleasure to have something as enjoyable as that in our school."



*Digging out the pond for the Conservation Area - 1992*

## 1991 - 1996

Our present headmaster, Mr. Phillip Jones, was previously headmaster of Cwmdau Church in Wales School, Powys. He took up his appointment in September 1991 with 83 on roll. The staff were Miss A. F. Brown, deputy head, teachers Mrs. S. Cole, Mrs. M. Gillett and Mrs. S. Somers, secretary Mrs. J. Morgan, lunchtime supervisor Mrs. S. Thomas and cleaner Mrs. R. Evans.

The changeover of headteacher was made much easier by Mr. Jones visiting the school on several occasions in the term before he took up his post and Mr. Chappell continued to support the school by coming in to help with football. A Welshspeaker, Mr. Jones received a warm welcome from the widow of C. T. Jones who still lived in the former schoolhouse, and whose first language was Welsh.

Mr. Jones has introduced residential visits, the first highly successful one being to London where 16 pupils and four staff visited, as well as all the sights, the Tower of London Primary School where there are 30 different nationalities and seventeen different languages are spoken in the playground. Quite an experience for our rural children. This was followed by an equally successful visit to Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight. This visit was made by minibus, and as there were too many children for one visit, Mr. Jones took two parties on consecutive weekends.

The most adventurous trip has been the visit to France. Here we were joined by children and staff from Clifford C.P. School. Travelling by bus, the accommodation was in a lovely French chateau. Here the children and staff (!) took part in volleyball, mini olympics, air rifle shooting and an assault course (certainly never to be forgotten by the staff!) A visit was made to Le Mans where, knowing Mr. Jones' ambition to drive on the circuit there, the staff presented him with a helmet and overalls (complete with "L" plates) and a toy steering wheel and told him to use his imagination. A highlight of the trip was the visit to Paris and the climb up the

Eiffel Tower. On the return journey a visit was made to Bayeux to view the famous tapestry and a poignant view of the British War Cemetery and the Mulberry Harbour and the Normandy beaches. A very moving experience.

In the months before the French visit several visits were made by staff and children to Clifford and they, in turn, came to Kingsland. This was so successful that it is being repeated in 1996 when a joint residential visit is being made to London.

Nearer home, recent visits have been made to Hereford Cathedral, Birmingham, and two fascinating visits to Techniquest in Cardiff. On the first visit we were taken on a tour of Cardiff Arms Park and, after showing us round, Mr. Jones sang



*Card games on the ferry to France 1993*

beautifully "Land of my Fathers" in Welsh and then tripped over a "Keep off the grass" sign onto the hallowed turf.

Some very happy school productions have been put on during the last years. The Infants produced "The Witch with the Wobbly Wand" in the School Hall and some months later the Junior children depicted "Songs and Dances around Europe" and the following year the whole school put on a performance based on "The Snowman" visiting different countries. An annual event is the performance put on by the children for the residents of Edgefield and Glendaph Nursing Homes. The children also visit these homes at Christmas to sing carols, the younger

children going to Edgefield while the older children visit Glendaph.

In September 1995 Mrs. Gillett began a university course and now works part time, Mrs. Somers now working full time. The staff has been joined by ancillary Mrs. Sally Hicks and Mrs. Thomas now works full time as a special assistant. The School is also greatly helped by parents and friends who give up their time to assist in school.

1996 will be a time of celebration, of reflection, of meeting old friends, and hopefully, looking towards a bright future for the school. The generations who have given so much to our school have laid a firm foundation for the next 150 years.



*Kingsland School Staff 1996*

*Back Row*

*Mrs. R. Evans, Mrs. J. Morgan, Mrs. S. Thomas, Mrs. S. Somers, Mrs. S. Hicks*

*Front Row*

*Mrs. M. Gillett, Rev. Preb. S. B. Thomas, Mr. P. H. Jones, Miss. A. F. Brown, Mrs. S. Cole*

## GOVERNORS OF KINGSLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

*Rev. Preb. S. B. Thomas*

The Chairman of Governors, Rector of Kingsland and Vicar of Eardisland.

*Mr. P. H. Jones*

The Headmaster of Kingsland School.

*Mr. M. Bishop*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education.

*Mrs. J. Greene*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. Her three children are ex pupils of the school.

*Mrs. S. Johnson*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. Two of her children were former pupils of the school and one currently attends.

*Mr. C. Davis*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by Kingsland P.C.C. An ex pupil himself, and his two children are former pupils of the school.

*Mr. D. Noon*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by Kingsland P.C.C. Mr. Noon is headmaster of Weobley High School and his three sons are former pupils.

*Mrs. W. Priday*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by Eardisland P.C.C. Mrs. Priday is treasurer of Kingsland School Governors and her children attended this school.

*Mrs. A. Vernon*

A Foundation Governor, appointed by Eardisland P.C.C. Her two daughters attended this school.

*Mrs. M. Williams*

Appointed by the Local Education Authority. Her daughters attended this school.

*Mrs. J. Vaughan*

Appointed by Kingsland Parish Council, her children attended the school.

*Mrs. G. Rees*

Appointed by the Local Education Authority.

*Mr. S. Perkins*

The Parent Governor. Mr. Perkins has three children, two currently attending this school.

*Mrs. S. Somers*

The Teacher Governor. Mrs. Somers has two children currently attending this school.

# CHILDREN ATTENDING KINGSLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

## *SPRING TERM 1996*

### *CLASS 5 - Mr. P. H. Jones*

Josh Davies, Tom Everall, Nicholas Griffiths, Thomas Hicks, Daniel MacCarthy, Alex Marshall, David Morgan, Adam Perkins, James Platford, Darren Williams.

Georgina Caldicott, Jenna Canning, Rebecca Clifton, Samantha Lewis, Penny Nicholls, Sharon Preece, Lauren Summers, Charlotte Thomas, Samantha Williams, Lindsay Wilson.

### *CLASS 4 - Mrs. S. Somers*

Lee Ashton, Aaron Bowden, Robert Harper, David Jenkins, Toby Johnson, David Perkins, Brian Perrigo, David Phillips, Ben Powles, Danny Smith, James Somers, John Speke, Boy Thorne.

Katie Bateman, Dawn Davies, Lisa Davies, Sophie Lewis, Charlotte Magness, Harriet Parker, Abigail Roberts, Kimberley Schenke, Katy Williams.

### *CLASS 3 - Miss A. Brown*

Dean Carpenter, Samuel Cooke, Martin Edwards, Ashley Gore, Christopher Griffiths, James Lines, Thomas Marshall, Harry Mills, Alexander Powney, Liam Ratcliffe, Alun Williams.

Carrie-Anne Carpenter, Alison Davies, Annie Guerin, Harriot Leyton-Purrier, Penny Mallett, Kelly Nicholls, Rebecca Sankey, Marisa Shurman, Ruth Thomas.

### *CLASS 2 - Mrs. M. Gillett*

Kieren Davis, David Edwards, Simon Gardner, Duncan Parker, Edward Jones, Jonathan Magness, Dominic Morris, Sam Powles, Christopher Powney, Luke Somers, Benjamin Thomas, Tom Watkins, James Weston, Joe Williams, Andrew Wilson.

Lauren Cooke, Marie Kedward, Katie Mills, Rebecca Morgan, Lauren Turvey.

### *CLASS 1 - Mrs. S. Cole*

Leo Carpenter, Christopher Connop, Benjamin Cook, John Davies, Stuart Edwards, Douglas Henry, Luke Jones, Tom Powles.

Jessica Baker, Kirsty Ely, Kimberley Hazel, Sophia Lazenby, Suzanne Platford, Victoria Roberts, Bridie Smith, Suzanne Turvey, Jessica Young, Rachel Young.

# CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL

## *SUMMER TERM 1996*

Samuel Ellis, Mace Emmens, Richard Harper, Sam Pierce, Stacey Fry, Katie Llewellyn, Emma Reddock, Michelle Roberts.

---

---

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It has been a privilege to talk to so many people about their memories of Kingsland School and I would like to thank them for their contribution to this short history. Many thanks to those who have lent photographs, either for this book or for the exhibition being held during the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Thanks also to Mr. Robin Clifton for his drawing of the school, Orphans Press Ltd and the County Records Office, Hereford for their help.

Janet Morgan.

---

---

