

BASINGSTOKE: SOCIAL HISTORY II: EDUCATION

Provision to 1870

A fee paying grammar school, later endowed, was established from at least 1538.¹ A Petty School was established by Sir James Lancaster (d. 1618), probably as a lower department of the grammar school, with the condition that the lecturer should visit at least once a week.² In 1656 an endowed Aldworth's Hospital boarding school opened for ten poor boys from the town, for the purpose of placing boys in apprenticeships.³ In 1713 charity schools existed, probably founded by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.⁴ The Rev J Williamson opened a boarding school for boys in 1790 teaching Classics, writing, accounts and use of the globes⁵ and by 1792 Mrs Dickinson was running a boarding school for ladies.⁶ John Holder (d. 1797) ran another Petty School in a room belonging to Richard Woodroffe (former Mayor).⁷ Totterdown Ragged School in the Reading Road started as a mission school.⁸

The National School scheme took over the work of the charity schools in 1811 using premises in the Malthouse - part of the Vicarage in Church Square - (for girls and infants), Totterdown and the Blue Coat School.⁹ The Rev Thomas Sheppard supported a Sunday School founded in 1802¹⁰ which by 1819 was attended by 75-90 children.¹¹ Another school with 14 girls was run by the Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, supported partly by subscription and partly by children's pence. The Independent Dissenters opened a school in 1820 which, by 1833, had 35 girls attending.¹² 1832 saw the construction of a Nonconformist British School,¹³ teaching more than 100 scholars by 1859.¹⁴ In 1833 there were a total of twelve daily schools accommodating 116 boys and 88 girls and three Sunday Schools.¹⁵ The Congregationalists built a schoolroom and classrooms at their premises in London Road in 1838 which were added to in 1870 and subsequent years.¹⁶ By the 1850s the Primitive Methodists and Friends' Meeting House each supported Sunday schools.¹⁷

In 1855 the grammar school moved to new premises, but by 1866 only 20 boys attended.¹⁸ In 1861 there is mention of a boarding school for ladies, run by the

¹ Below Holy Ghost/Queen Mary's Grammar School.

² Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 387; Parl. Paper 1835 (116) 1103.

³ HRO, 10M57/L149; below Aldworth's Hospital School.

⁴ F. Clarke, *A School History of Hampshire*, (1909), 241-2.

⁵ *London Chronicle*, June 29 1790 – July 1 1790, issue 5283.

⁶ *Univ. Brit. Dir, Hampshire Extracts* (1792-8).

⁷ F.J. Baigent, J.E. Millard, *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* (1889), 705-9.

⁸ *Willis Museum*, Totterdown.

⁹ *Willis Museum*, BWM2011.184.

¹⁰ HRO, Q16/1/1; Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 395.

¹¹ Parl. Paper 1819 (224) 819.

¹² Parl. Paper 1835 (62) 836.

¹³ HRO, 8M62/C2/23; below British School.

¹⁴ *White's Dir. Hants & IoW.* (1859); below British School.

¹⁵ Parl. Paper 1835 (62) 836.

¹⁶ HRO, 50A07/E9.

¹⁷ *PO Dir. Hants, Wilts and Dorset.* (1855).

¹⁸ Below Holy Ghost/Queen Mary's Grammar School.

Misses Dusautoy who had 20 pupils in their Winton Square premises.¹⁹ 'Young gentlemen' were catered for at Flaxfield College by Dr Greenwood to educate them for business pursuits, in contrast to the grammar school.²⁰ In 1856 free elementary classes were provided at the Mechanics' Institute during the winter months for children over 10 years.²¹ From 1865 evening classes for 'men over 17 years of age' were held at the National Schools.²²

HOLY GHOST/QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1524-1972

Provision to 1870

The origin of Queen Mary's School dates back to the Holy Ghost School in the grounds of the Holy Ghost Chapel located on the north side of the town close to the present railway station; only ruins of the buildings survive.



18th century sketch of the Holy Ghost Chapel with School and 21st century ruins.

The beginnings of the school may have belonged to the original Guild founded by Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester and William Lord Sandys in 1524 under licence from Henry VIII. A reference to the school in 1548 under the Chantries Act suggests that a Guild was indeed employed 'to fynd a scole Master to teache children grammer, which hath been so continually kept thes 10 yeres last past unto this daye'.²³ The building was a half timbered structure consisting of just one large room.²⁴

The Guild was suppressed at the Reformation and the school closed,²⁵ but following a petition from the inhabitants of the town it was re-established in 1556 by Philip and Mary²⁶ and the former possessions re-granted.²⁷ A close of 2a. and 103a. in common fields with other hereditaments in the parish supported the priest as

¹⁹ *Census*, 1861.

²⁰ *Hants & Berks Gazette* 25 Dec 1880.

²¹ HRO, 148M71/13/1 *unpaginated* 4 Nov 1856; see People & Communities: Mechanics' Institute.

²² E. Stokes, *The Making of Basingstoke* (2008) 176.

²³ A.F. Leach, *English Schools at the Reformation, 1546-8* (1896), 89.

²⁴ HRO, 28M68/34; *Univ. Brit. Dir.* (1792-98).

²⁵ Parl. Paper (1867-8), (3966-X), 317.

²⁶ Letters patent 3 & 4.

²⁷ *Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian*, 29 Mar 1845.

schoolmaster and minister of the chapel.²⁸ In 1559 a yearly salary of £12 was paid for the first time specifically to an unnamed schoolmaster rather than a priest.²⁹

Several endowments were made to the school for building repairs and master's fees. Agnes Yate (d. 1560) gave five ewes at a yearly rent of 2s 8d.³⁰ Richard Holloway (d. 1564) left 10s a year out of his house towards the maintenance of the building.³¹ John Greene, woollen draper, (d. 1584) bequeathed 40s also for repairs to the chapel and schoolhouse.³² Rev Thomas Browne (d. 1588), vicar of Basingstoke and master at the school on several occasions presented his house and appurtenances towards maintenance.³³ Margery Shipton, widow, (d. 1592) bequeathed 3s 4d.³⁴ William Wigg (d. 1607) willed £80 to cover the education of a child brought from neighbouring Bramley, the parish where he himself was born.³⁵ He wished the scholar to be taught 'the understanding of the latine tounge' so that 'he may be encouraged to clime the tree of knowledge whereby he may afterwarde by gods good grace and his diligence prove proffitable to gods church and his Countrie.'³⁶ John Hall, clothier, (d. 1632) gave 10s yearly to the Master issuing from land held at Rowe Meadow (subsequently called Round Mead adjoining Winchester pound).³⁷

However, the most significant benefactors were Sir James Deane (d. 1607) and his cousin Sir James Lancaster (d. 1618).³⁸ Deane bequeathed a rentcharge of £10 out of a farm in Ashe to be paid to the master to teach grammar and other good learning. Fees prior to this (1564) were 8s 8d for the Christmas quarter; 15s for Lady Day quarter and £1 1s for three quarters.³⁹ With Deane's regular income, fees were dropped and by 1609 the school was described as a Free School.

Lancaster left eight houses in Swan Alley, London and estates in Maidenwell (Lincolnshire) and Pamber (Hampshire) to the Guild of Skinners in London. The resulting income of £103 6s 8d was paid to the Churchwarden, Lecturer and Bailiffs of Basingstoke out of which £20 a year was to go to the maintenance of the school as payment to the master and usher at the appointment and discretion of the Corporation.⁴⁰ This bequest brought about a change in management as previously the usher was found and paid for at the expense of the master. Skinner's also provided books for the boys.⁴¹

²⁸ Parl. Paper (1867-8), (3966-X), School Inquiry Commission, 317.

²⁹ Willis Museum: *Book of Accounts of the Wardens of the Fraternity of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke AD1557-AD1654*. Copy of original made by J.E. Millard 24 Jun 1882.

³⁰ *VCH Hants*. II,374.

³¹ *VCH Hants*. II,374.

³² TNA: PRO, PROB 11/66.

³³ HRO, 1588B/09.

³⁴ HRO, 1592A/107.

³⁵ Willis Museum: *Book of Accounts of the Wardens of the Fraternity of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke AD1557-AD1654*. Copy of original made by J.E. Millard 24 Jun 1882.

³⁶ TNA: PRO, PROB 11/109.

³⁷ HRO, 148M71/8/8/1.

³⁸ Lancaster was an eminent navigator and early trader to the East Indies.

³⁹ Willis Museum: *Book of Accounts of the Wardens of the Fraternity of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke AD1557-AD1654*. Copy of original made by J.E. Millard 24 Jun 1882.

⁴⁰ HRO, 148M71/5/4/5 folder 1 Transcript of Sir James Lancaster's will.

⁴¹ Willis Museum: *Book of Accounts of the Wardens of the Fraternity of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke AD1557-AD1654*. Copy of original made by J.E. Millard 24 Jun 1882.

Schoolmaster James Pearse (1589-1594) took out a lease c.1564 for the close of pasture next to the school used as a burial ground called, 'the holly gost liten', probably for use as a playground.⁴² The school and chapel suffered damage during the Civil War when Basingstoke became a headquarters for Parliamentarians and both the Guild and school seem to have been suppressed during this time.⁴³ A damaged plaque on the ruins acknowledges the school's re-opening in 1670 by George Morley, Bishop of Winchester and George Edwards, Mayor of the Town; the Bishop took over the responsibility of appointing the master. Between 1608 and the appointment of Rev John James (1673-1717) there were 55-60 scholars attending the school, sons of gentlemen and yeomen from within the town and country,⁴⁴ but during James' time the number fell to 15-16. He inflicted severe discipline causing many children to abscond, be removed to a newly established parish school in Tunworth or in some cases to die of their injuries.⁴⁵ The chapel and tower also fell into ruin.

The Corporation increasingly assumed responsibility for affairs regarding the school even prior to the conveyance of Lancaster's estate from Skinner's in 1720.⁴⁶ Disputes arose from time to time between the Corporation and masters, particularly Rev Samuel Loggon (1743-1778) who claimed that they were withholding monies due from bequests and rentals.⁴⁷ Loggon petitioned the Lord Chancellor for the patronage to be reinstated and for a grant to make repairs to the chapel. Being unsuccessful he neglected his duties and in 1746 the Corporation proposed a counter petition to remove him. The dispute resulted in all future appointments of the master being made by the Crown; the Corporation was only responsible for electing the usher.⁴⁸ By 1749 payments from Lancaster's estate were so in arrears that Skinner's were forced to pay out of their own coffers.⁴⁹

In 1825, a charity reported that the income was £200 5s and only 12 scholars were attending. Classics continued to be taught free of charge,⁵⁰ but fees were eligible for studying history, geography, writing and arithmetic. Boys living in the town paid 15s quarterly and those from outside one guinea; entry was at age 9 and the leaving age was 15.⁵¹

On the death of the master Rev William Workman (1816-1849) the school closed again having been described as in decay and under defective management with only eight scholars⁵² and of little use to the parishioners.⁵³ A public meeting discussed improvements in the teaching, discipline and application of funds⁵⁴ after which a new management scheme was devised in 1852 by the Court of Chancery creating eight

⁴² *VCH Hants*, II, 375.

⁴³ E.G. Stokes & R.C. Crossman, *Queen Mary's School 1556-1972*, (1972), 7.

⁴⁴ HRO, 148M71/5/4/5.

⁴⁵ HRO, 148M71/5/4/5.

⁴⁶ HRO, 148M71/7/2/8.

⁴⁷ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/3.

⁴⁸ *VCH Hants*, II, 383.

⁴⁹ HRO, 148M71/5/4/5.

⁵⁰ *Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian*, 29 Mar 1845.

⁵¹ Parl. Paper 1835, (62), Education Enquiry, 836.

⁵² HRO, TOP19/1/37.

⁵³ *White's Dir. Hants and Isle of Wight*, (1859).

⁵⁴ HRO, TOP19/1/37.

Trustees. The vicar and mayor were ex-officio; three Trustees were to be appointed by the town council and three by the Municipal Charity Trustees.⁵⁵ All had to be Church of England (except the mayor), live in Basingstoke parish and within seven miles of the school house.⁵⁶

A request was accepted to widen the curriculum to other branches of literature and science to give a grounding in trade, agriculture and commercial pursuits rather than confining education to dead languages to prepare children for learned professions.⁵⁷ The name of the Queen's Free School was created in respect to Queen Mary.

The master had to be a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, to teach religion and be responsible for recruiting teachers for modern languages, arts and science to paying pupils and could take a maximum of thirty boarders. Entry age was reduced to 7 years and was subject to passing an exam, the leaving age was raised to 18. Annual fees for all were £7.⁵⁸ The usher, appointed by Trustees, was responsible for teaching Classics, maths, higher maths, modern literature and geography, was paid £50 annually by the master from endowment revenues, £20 from the charity and a proportion of the capitation fees.

The Court of Chancery sanctioned a new school to be built, to be funded out of the sale of stocks and funds belonging to the charity.⁵⁹ Land at a site in a healthy situation half a mile from the town in Worting Road, then known as Salisbury Road, near Salisbury Field, was bought by subscription for £400 in 1854.⁶⁰

The foundation stone for the new building was laid in 1855 and the construction cost of £2,000 was raised by mortgaging the 100a. Down Farm, (previously called Frymells⁶¹ and Holy Ghost Farm)⁶² which had been allotted at the time of the enclosure in 1786 in lieu of lands in the common fields.⁶³ As well as teaching rooms, the building included a cellar, attic bedrooms, servants' bedrooms, kitchen and a house for the master plus an adjacent playing field of approximately 1a. including a gymnasium.

The first master here was William Lightfoot (1854-1870). The land by the old school - the Litten and adjoining 2a. field called Maiden Acre - was sold to the Burial Board for £520 in 1857 which generated a higher investment income than the £10 previously received yearly from burial charges.⁶⁴

Robert Cottle (d. 1862), Mayor and bookseller, bequeathed £220 for three prizes of 'good and useful books' to be inscribed The Cottle Prize, to be presented to worthy

⁵⁵ *Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian*, 29 Mar 1845.

⁵⁶ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/7(i).

⁵⁷ HRO, TOP19/1/37.

⁵⁸ HRO, TOP19/1/37.

⁵⁹ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/7(i).

⁶⁰ HRO, 28M68/15/4; the land belonged to Thomas Workman, surgeon.

⁶¹ HRO, TOP19/1/37.

⁶² HRO, 28M68/15/1.

⁶³ *White's Dir. Hants and Isle of Wight*, (1859).

⁶⁴ HRO, 28M68/1, Mar 1855 – Oct 1857.

day boys twice annually.⁶⁵ A brass inscription to this effect was erected and is still displayed in the current Vyne Community School.⁶⁶

By 1866 the school was called a Grammar School but a year later an Inspector noted that teaching was still done by just one master and the usher. At the time of his visit there were twenty pupils, eleven of whom were boarders paying annual fees of £40-£60 according to age.

The school year was thirty hours per week for forty weeks, with play time three times a day and a whole holiday on Saturdays. The day began and ended with prayers; the timetable was from 6.30am in the summer and 8.00am in the winter finishing at 9.00pm. Dissenters were not taught the Catechism; boarders learnt scripture, history and Greek testament on Sundays. Five boys in the previous five years had progressed to Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin Universities; others had passed examinations for the Civil, Military and East India Services.⁶⁷

Some of the occupations given for the fathers of day scholars were listed as land agent, commercial traveller, ironmonger and publican but only six came from the town. Boarders from Sussex, Warwickshire, London and Kent had fathers who were clergymen, surgeons, solicitors, gentlemen and a timber merchant; all were considered to be upper class.⁶⁸

By 1869 parents were dissatisfied with the Classical teaching and either sent their sons to board some distance away or to the two schools within the town able to prepare them for a mercantile or agricultural life. They were happy to retain Latin as a subject but suggested introducing foreign languages, especially French as well as botany, geology, chemistry and drawing. Diminishing income from the endowments resulted in high fees which eliminated many town boys.⁶⁹

1870-1902

An examiner in 1870 agreed with the view that boys should be better prepared for commercial and agricultural futures. Senior boys attained good standards in trigonometry, algebra and Euclid but oral Latin and Greek grammar was poor throughout the school. There was evidence that some boys had been refused positions as clerks in the town as a result of poor spelling which he considered should be taught at home, the Queen's Free was an extending school not an elementary village school.⁷⁰

When Rev Arthur Forster Rutty (1873-1883) became master he brought sixty boarders with him creating much needed revenue.⁷¹ During his appointment he encouraged many additions and improvements, some at his own expense such as a fives court. A new school room was completed in 1875 at a cost of £453 19s funded

⁶⁵ HRO, 28M68/1, 15 Apr 1862.

⁶⁶ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1497.

⁶⁷ Parl. Paper (1867-8), (3966-X), 315-9; Lancaster had connections with the East India Company having commanded the first voyage in 1601.

⁶⁸ Parl. Paper (1867-8), (3966-X), 315-9.

⁶⁹ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/16(i).

⁷⁰ HRO, 28M68/1, 18 Feb 1870.

⁷¹ HRO, 28M68/1, 9 Feb 1870.

by a proportion of the sale of the Litten land and voluntary subscriptions.⁷² A detached two-storey building housing a master's sitting room, classroom, bedroom and dormitory/infirmary for seven beds was opened in 1878.⁷³ At this time numbers had reduced to 50 boys of whom 29 were boarders.⁷⁴ Ruty attributed the decreasing roll to the revival of another establishment in the town, Dr Greenwood's, where Latin was omitted from the curriculum and to the inferior quality of the second masters who were not required to be university graduates.⁷⁵

In July 1879 riots occurred on the ground adjacent to the new building used for sport and recreation by the Grammar boys. People in the town maintained that this was not the exclusive property of the school and that 600 children from the National School had no playground to use. On several evenings crowds assembled with the intention of trespassing and fighting the Grammar boys. Police and special constables were called in and instructed to read the Riot Act if necessary. They captured two town boys, one was accused of assault and posters were displayed warning of the consequences of further disturbances.⁷⁶

The Trustees' Minutes from 1880 to 1885 regularly refer to the sale of land in the town and fund raising events taking place to help with mounting debts.⁷⁷

Some less affluent boys had controversially begun to attend through scholarships from the Richard Aldworth Foundation and when Ruty resigned in 1883 there were 85 boys on the register, 55 of them day boys, the highest number ever achieved. A new management scheme was devised by the Charity Commissioners in 1885 appointing Governors in place of Trustees.⁷⁸

In 1893 advertisements show that the school offered a Modern Side, namely shorthand, book-keeping and commercial arithmetic which could be taken instead of Latin.⁷⁹ Subscriptions and grants received in 1898 from the Town Council and the Science and Art Department in London allowed a physics laboratory to be constructed.⁸⁰ Sale of land in 1901 to the London & South Western Railway Co raised £1,100.⁸¹

⁷² HRO, 28M68/1, 10 Feb 1874.

⁷³ HRO, 28M68/1, 14 Feb 1877, 10 Oct 1878.

⁷⁴ *VCH Hants*, II, 384

⁷⁵ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/18.

⁷⁶ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/18.

⁷⁷ HRO, 28M68/1, 15 Feb 1881.

⁷⁸ HRO, 28M68/1, 11 Aug 1885.

⁷⁹ *Basingstoke Gazette* 25 March 1893 page 4 column 4.

⁸⁰ E.G. Stokes & R.C. Crossman, *Queen Mary's School 1556-1972*, (1972), 26-7.

⁸¹ E.G. Stokes & R.C. Crossman, *Queen Mary's School 1556-1972*, (1972), 30.



Queen's Free School, Worting Road c.1898⁸²

1902-1944

The first capitation grant of £234 for 41 boys was received in 1902 from the County Council and Board of Education.⁸³ Over the next five years grants provided half of the income for the school, the other half came from real estate; fees covered less than half of the cost of education.

By 1905 there were three permanent teachers alongside the head, James Chadwick (1883-1918). Entry was at age 10 and boys left at 17; there were only 3 boarders and 53 day boys. An Inspector reported that the ad hoc extensions to the building were not well designed and as no boarders had enrolled since 1906 suggested converting the dormitory into a classroom.⁸⁴ Population growth in the area had predominantly been in the labouring classes who chose the Board School for their sons.⁸⁵

The school was 'a most difficult case of a depleted school'⁸⁶ and was downgraded from a Special to an Ordinary Course centre in 1907; free places were offered to Primary Elementary Students resulting in an increased roll from 30 in 1906 to 73 in 1907, but by 1917, the Grammar School was the only school in Hampshire that showed no progress in numbers.⁸⁷ An Inspector suggested that parents preferred Public Boarding Schools and objected to their sons associating with those of trades' people and free scholarship boys. Expenditure on the buildings and salaries (with the introduction of the Burnham Scale in 1920) severely stretched resources.⁸⁸

In 1921 the number of Governors was increased to fifteen.⁸⁹ The Chairman announced at the 1926 prize giving that a site had been secured for a new school on the north side of the railway and that building work would soon commence. However, the Education Committee postponed the construction and the school

⁸² HRO, 43M94/8/4.

⁸³ TNA: PRO, ED 35/928.

⁸⁴ TNA: PRO, ED 109/1781.

⁸⁵ TNA: PRO, ED 35/928.

⁸⁶ TNA: PRO, ED 35/928.

⁸⁷ TNA: PRO, ED 35/928.

⁸⁸ E.G. Stokes & R.C. Crossman *Queen Mary's School 1556-1972* (1972) 32.

⁸⁹ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/23.

occupied the same premises until 1940. Provision for boys in the town had lagged behind that already made for elementary schools and the High School for Girls.⁹⁰

During 1931 a grant was received from Hampshire County Council of £1,635.⁹¹ Pupil numbers increased from 116 in 1926 to 149 in 1932. The County continued to offer free places and twelve boys received Aldworth Foundation scholarships; 65 out of 154 starters were exempt from fees which were now only £12 a year.⁹² Most boys left shortly before reaching the age of 16 and went to clerical and business posts. Only one pupil had progressed to university in recent years even though a senior scholarship was available. The premises were increasingly unsatisfactory; the laboratories were 'well-nigh intolerable' and boys had to walk into town to a hired room for manual instruction.⁹³

Plans for a new building on a 12.5a. site in Vyne Road to accommodate 330 boys were finally issued in 1937 and construction was completed in May 1941 at a cost of £31,650. There were eight classrooms, laboratories, a lecture room, art and handicraft rooms, library, assembly hall, kitchen, gymnasium and staff rooms. It was renamed Basingstoke Queen Mary's School⁹⁴ and took on a maintained status being administered by a Local Committee of the LEA and Governors.⁹⁵ The Worting Road premises were leased by the Bank of England during the war.⁹⁶

The first head in the new premises was Richard Butler (1940-45) whose military background greatly strengthened the Cadet Corps which was seen as good preparation for the older boys facing conscription.⁹⁷ By March 1941 there were 187 pupils with the number increasing to 301 in 1945; up to 37 evacuees were enrolled. Part of the playground was ploughed for potatoes and boys attended Farm Camps in Lymington, Steventon and Farleigh Wallop to help with the potato harvest. The hall was used for orchestral concerts and the gymnasium by American troops for basketball practice.⁹⁸

In 1941-43 the pupils were streamed and divided into Arts, Science and General groups. Fees ceased in 1944 and the Preparatory Department closed.⁹⁹ The Governors recommended a minimum annual intake of fifty boys which resulted in a general lowering of standards. Boys rarely stayed on beyond age 16 and few progressed to further education.¹⁰⁰ After the war, the return of the evacuees freed up space which was offered to boys aged 13+¹⁰¹ and to girls of the same age from the overcrowded Girls' High School who stayed until 1948.

⁹⁰ HRO, 161M85/3 *Spring 1926 School Magazine*, II no 4.

⁹¹ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/23.

⁹² HRO, 8M62/C5/1/23.

⁹³ HRO, 8M62/C5/1/23.

⁹⁴ TNA: PRO, ED 35/4362.

⁹⁵ TNA: PRO, ED 35/4362 Governors were elected by Basingstoke Borough and Rural District Councils, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere and Whitchurch District Councils and the Senate of Reading University.

⁹⁶ TNA: PRO, ED 27/9422.

⁹⁷ TNA: PRO, ED 35/4362.

⁹⁸ HRO, 308M87/A1.

⁹⁹ TNA: PRO, ED 162/1013.

¹⁰⁰ HRO, 308M87/A1.

¹⁰¹ HRO, 308M87/A1.

The Worting Road buildings, Headmaster's house and grounds comprising 3,116a. were purchased by the County Council in 1947 for £9,000 and adapted to become the Technical Institute (in 1954 re-named Basingstoke Technical College).¹⁰² The sale of the original Guild's assets constituted the Queen Mary's Foundation Fund which provided amenities to the new school outside the remit of the County Council.¹⁰³ A caretaker's house was erected on the Queen Mary's site in 1948 being unique in that all the work was carried out by apprentices.¹⁰⁴

Pupil numbers were far below that required for an efficient and economical organisation so the Authority allowed admission for boys who had just failed to reach the entry standard but wished to follow a technical course. After two years they transferred to the Technical Institute for two or three days a week.¹⁰⁵ By 1955 there were 349 boys on the register.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s numbers rose to 580 with a three form entry and accommodation was enlarged with Terrapin huts and twelve new classrooms and laboratories. An open air swimming pool was built from parents' and old boys' donations to celebrate the Quarter centenary. Land adjacent was allocated for the construction of the new Charles Chute Secondary School for boys which opened in 1960. In 1965 the grammar school was renamed Queen Mary's School¹⁰⁶ and the last entry of boys was in September 1971.

In the following year, as part of the county Secondary Reorganisation, Charles Chute and Queen Mary's amalgamated as the first stage towards a mixed sex comprehensive scheme for 1,200 11-16 year olds.¹⁰⁷ This new, combined school was given the name of Charles Chute Secondary School. Sixth form boys moved to a Junior College at the Shrubbery School in Cliddesden Road which became a Further Education centre (subsequently Queen Mary's College). The school lost its connection with the sovereign and became the Vyne Community School, named after the nearby former home of the Sandys and Chute families.

¹⁰² TNA: PRO, ED 168/485; E.G. Stokes & R.C. Crossman, *Queen Mary's School 1556-1972*, (1972), 73.

¹⁰³ HRO, 28M69/34.

¹⁰⁴ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 25 Mar 1948.

¹⁰⁵ HRO, 308M87/A1; PRO, ED 168/485.

¹⁰⁶ HRO, 308M87/A2.

¹⁰⁷ TNA: PRO, ED 162/1013.



The Vyne Community School 2012
formerly Queen Mary's School

ALDWORTH'S HOSPITAL/BLUE COAT SCHOOL 1656-1879

Provision to 1870

Sir Richard Aldworth's¹⁰⁸ will of 1646 bequeathed £2,000 on trust to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Basingstoke to purchase lands to generate a yearly income of £103 10s 8d. Out of this sum they were to pay £6 13s 4d for the 'education and bringing upp of ten poore Male Children .. and for their Meate Drinke and Cloathing ... yearely'.¹⁰⁹ This gave the boys schooling followed by an apprenticeship in an 'honest trade'.¹¹⁰

Because of litigation, monies were delayed until 1656 when the Corporation purchased an existing dwelling for use as the school, in Cross Street (originally Cow Cross Lane). Within the bequest, Aldworth provided a salary of £10 yearly for a schoolmaster who would live with the boys and teach them the Catechism, to read, write and cypher and £6 13s 4d to clothe each boy in the style of Christ's Hospital in London where he had been a governor and benefactor, so that they would be known in the town and be noted for their behaviour.¹¹¹ The uniform consisted of two blue jackets, one waistcoat, one pair of leather breeches, two pairs of yellow hose, two shirts, two bands, one red girdle, one pair of yellow square buckles, one cap tied with yellow ferret and two pairs of shoes.¹¹² Because of the uniform, the school became known as the Blue Coat School. Aldworth also willed that five bedsteads should be supplied (two boys to each bed) with bolsters, sheets, blankets and coverlets.¹¹³

¹⁰⁸ Aldworth's mother was born in Basingstoke; at the time of his death he lived in Milk Street, London.

¹⁰⁹ HRO, 10M57/1149.

¹¹⁰ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393.

¹¹¹ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 391; HRO 10M57/1149.

¹¹² F. Clarke, *A School History of Hampshire*, (1909), 242.

¹¹³ HRO, 10M57/1149.

The boys and master were required to attend the weekly lecture at church¹¹⁴ and the Corporation provided every boy with a prayer book.¹¹⁵

As vacancies occurred at the school, the Corporation voted on three nominees from the town, usually one boy gained all the votes and was accepted.¹¹⁶ Some were nominated up to three or five times before becoming successful or disappearing from the scheme.¹¹⁷ The lowest admission age was 7, with boys coming from labouring and tradesmen's families. At around 16 years of age one boy annually was placed in an apprenticeship for a bond of £6 13s 4d,¹¹⁸ generally for a term of seven years. Records from 1688 show apprentices being placed in Basingstoke or surrounding villages and towns and London, in such trades as shoemaker, miller, papermaker and clothier.¹¹⁹ Some boys were given their coach fares to attend trials¹²⁰ and others were found positions through newspaper advertisements.¹²¹ A particular proviso was included in the 1709 indenture for William Adams apprenticed to William Tovey, basketmaker of Alton banning him from attending Quaker meetings.¹²²

A 106a. farm at Bentworth, outside Basingstoke, was purchased with Trust funds in 1677¹²³ but by 1794 maintenance costs were too high and the income was only sufficient to support six boys. Thomas Coulthard of Farleigh Wallop purchased the farm for £3,800 enabling the Trustees to invest in consols and support ten boys once more.¹²⁴

The Blue Coat School had to share its premises under the National School scheme created in 1811.¹²⁵ The master at this time was William Brown (1801-1814) formerly a teacher at a Petty School.¹²⁶ As well as receiving an income for instructing the National boys he also received £10 annually for the Blue Coat boys.¹²⁷ The Rev Thomas Sheppard, vicar of Basingstoke (1768-1814), was a benefactor of Blue Coat and during his time invested his £10 annual charitable payment as lecturer in a Trust dated 1816 which created an additional income of £6 13s 4d thus doubling the amount previously available to each apprentice.¹²⁸ In spite of this, the master complained that the cost of feeding and clothing the boys exceeded his income even after economies such as his wife taking on the mending of clothes instead of putting it out.¹²⁹ From 1822 the Corporation increased the premium to £20¹³⁰ per boy which,

¹¹⁴ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 391.

¹¹⁵ Willis Museum, BWM2011.172.

¹¹⁶ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393.

¹¹⁷ HRO, 148M71/8/1/5.

¹¹⁸ Aldworth himself had been an apprentice at the Skinner's Company in London, obtaining his freedom in 1601.

¹¹⁹ HRO, 148M71/2/6/8.

¹²⁰ HRO, 148M71/6/2/4.

¹²¹ HRO, 148M71/8/1/2.

¹²² HRO, 148M71/2/6/8/29.

¹²³ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1508.

¹²⁴ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 392.

¹²⁵ Willis Museum, BWM2011.184.

¹²⁶ F.J. Baigent & J.E. Millard, *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke*, (1889), 705-9.

¹²⁷ *White's Dir. Hants & IoW.* (1859). 489.

¹²⁸ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393.

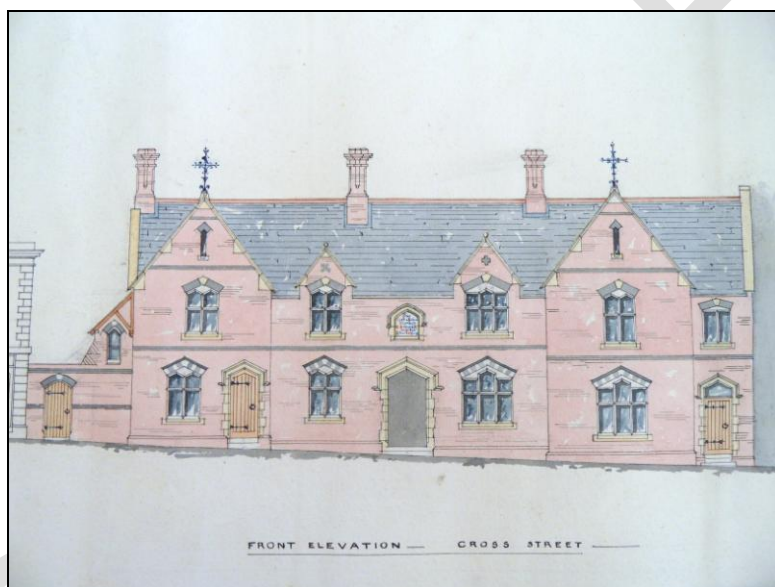
¹²⁹ HRO, 148M71/8/1/2.

¹³⁰ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394; *White's Dir. Hants & IoW.* (1859). 489.

by 1825, had amounted to a total of £765 to meet the cost of Aldworth's wishes.¹³¹ Twenty-five boys were placed out as apprentices between 1806 and 1826.¹³²

By 1826 the Cross Street premises were enlarged, principally at the expense of Sheppard's widow¹³³ Sophia, and consisted of a school room with a yard behind (for the boys), two houses adjoining, one occupied by the master rent free and the other let to the mistress of the girls' National School in Church Square. The lecturer at this time was Rev James Blatch (d. 1864) who also invested £1,949 in annuities to support the school.¹³⁴

The Blue Coat boys lodged in the master's house but the cost of maintaining them still exceeded his income. The Corporation again made up the deficit by £160 per annum.¹³⁵ By 1859 there were only seven boys supported by the charity. In 1862 the premises were rebuilt and enlarged again, by private subscription to accommodate 292 children¹³⁶ included National School girls who transferred from Church Square.¹³⁷



Blue Coat and National Schools c.1862¹³⁸

1870-1902

A report in 1876 year stated that the Blue Coat boys looked gaunt and underfed. They had no special day room for themselves and ate meals on a dresser in the master's kitchen. Since merging with the National School the standard of boys had declined and nominating suitable candidates had become difficult as tradesmen did not want their sons to wear the conspicuous uniform.¹³⁹ As the application of the

¹³¹ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393-4.

¹³² Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

¹³³ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393.

¹³⁴ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1508.

¹³⁵ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

¹³⁶ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1508.

¹³⁷ TNA: PRO, ED 21/6272; below National Schools.

¹³⁸ HRO, 46M97/19.

¹³⁹ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1508.

endowment was no longer in accordance with Aldworth's wishes a proposal was made by the Municipal Charities to close the Blue Coat School after the remaining six pupils had been put forward for apprenticeships with the suggestion that the money should be invested to send boys of a higher rank to the Queen's Free School whilst continuing to wear the Christ's Hospital uniform to identify them. Protracted objections were received from ratepayers and Trustees and a compromise was reached whereby ten boys would still be supported as well as scholarships being made available. The school finally closed in 1879 after which the Richard Aldworth Foundation was formed¹⁴⁰ with the first exhibitioners being examined in 1880.¹⁴¹

The premises continued to be used as a National School, then a Board School and finally as Aldworth's School, a private venture run by Henry Weeks (1876-1887), the last master of Blue Coat. This closed due to bankruptcy in 1896 when the building was leased to Messrs Milward, boot and shoe manufacturers.¹⁴²

1902 to the Present

A new scholarship Scheme was drawn up in 1907 to include girls for the first time, but when free schooling was introduced they were offered instead to university applicants¹⁴³ and to assist students having to travel for instruction in subjects not offered at the Technical College.¹⁴⁴ Grants continued to be paid throughout the 20th century, but with diminishing funds these similarly reduced. In 2010 the charity was re-named as Aldworth's Educational Trust and grants of c. £1,200 per annum were given to primary school children educated in the Borough for travel, books, equipment, clothing and residential visits.¹⁴⁵

The school premises were occupied by various tenants and eventually sold to the Aldworth Printing Works in 1926. The whole of the north side of Cross Street was demolished in 1966 to make way for Timberlake Road as part of the town centre development.¹⁴⁶ A new secondary school was opened in 1963 in Western Way and given the name of Richard Aldworth School (later the Aldworth Science College) but had no historical connection with Aldworth other than the insertion of the Blue Coat School stone plaque above the main entrance. The Basingstoke Heritage Society commissioned a statue of a Blue Coat boy which was unveiled in 1994 in Cross Street on the site of the old school which was cast from a mould of the original statue at the larger Blue Coat School in Reading also founded by Richard Aldworth.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁰ TNA: PRO, ED 27/1508; E. Stokes, *The Making of Basingstoke*. (2008). 169.

¹⁴¹ HRO, 46M97/17.

¹⁴² HRO, 46M97/11.

¹⁴³ HRO, 46M97/17.

¹⁴⁴ Minute Book of Trustees (1926-1988), *held by Charity*.

¹⁴⁵ Charity Commission website (accessed Oct 2011), no. 307259.

¹⁴⁶ HRO, 46M97/20; P. Davis, *Richard Aldworth's Other School*, *The Aldworthian School Magazine*. (1991). 64-5

¹⁴⁷ Hampshire County Council website (accessed Oct 2011).



The Blue Coat Boy, Cross Street
on the site of the old school

NATIONAL SCHOOLS 1811-1888

Provision to 1870

No buildings in the town were dedicated for the sole use of the National Schools. In 1811 premises were used at the Blue Coat School in Cross Street (boys),¹⁴⁸ the Malthouse (Church Cottage) in Church Square (girls), part of the Vicarage (infants) and a building in Totterdown.¹⁴⁹ In a Trust dated 1816, the Rev. Thomas Sheppard, vicar of Basingstoke (1768-1814), gave all his residual property to his wife Sophia in which he made provision for boys and girls to be taught under the National scheme.¹⁵⁰ He gave £333 6s 8d for the benefit of the girls;¹⁵¹ the boys received dividends of £636 6s 8d¹⁵² and were also supported by voluntary subscriptions and £13 6s 8d received annually from a bequest of Sir James Lancaster (d. 1618).¹⁵³ Lancaster had also supported a Petty School which was annexed to the Blue Coat School from 1810¹⁵⁴ and later united with the National School.¹⁵⁵

In 1818 Sophia Sheppard conveyed two parcels of land in Wildmoor to the Rev. James Blatch, William Apletree and John Hasker for the sole use and benefit of the Girls' National School¹⁵⁶ according to the monitorial plan of Dr Bell.¹⁵⁷ The total number of children being educated under the National scheme by 1819 was 170.¹⁵⁸

¹⁴⁸ Willis Museum BWM2011.184; Above Aldworth Hospital School.

¹⁴⁹ Willis Museum BWM2011.184.

¹⁵⁰ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 385.

¹⁵¹ *White's Dir. Hants & IoW.* (1859). 488.

¹⁵² *White's Dir. Hants & IoW.* (1859). 488.

¹⁵³ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

¹⁵⁴ F.J. Baigent, J.E. Millard, *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* (1889), 705-9.

¹⁵⁵ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

¹⁵⁶ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

The boys' Cross Street premises were enlarged in 1826, mainly from funds of Sheppard's widow¹⁵⁹ to incorporate a school room with a yard behind, two houses, one occupied by the master rent free and the other let to the mistress of the Girls' National in Church Square.

In 1859 there were approximately 100 children enrolled at each the boys' and girls' schools,¹⁶⁰ the majority came from dame schools and the British School¹⁶¹ and three years later work commenced to offer a classroom for girls on the first floor of the Cross Street premises with a separate entrance and playground.¹⁶²

1870-1888

An increasing number of pupils in 1870, particularly infants, resulted in enlargement of the Church Square buildings to accommodate 250 girls and infants; there were 122 boys at Cross Street,¹⁶³ but all were said to be two years too old for the classes they were occupying because of late commencement or irregular attendance.¹⁶⁴ In 1871 the three schools received subscriptions of £97 of which nearly £40 was given by just seven families, but this voluntary status at least enabled the schools to maintain their independence. Subscriber numbers fell – some had left town and others had ceased or reduced their contributions.¹⁶⁵ The largest donation of £2 to each school was from Magdalen College¹⁶⁶ and by 1873 the Committee of Council grant was the largest in the county totalling £182 12s.¹⁶⁷

A new, mixed school for 80 pupils was constructed in Totterdown (Reading Road) in 1874,¹⁶⁸ conveyed in perpetuity to the vicar and church wardens,¹⁶⁹ but by the following year there were 150 children and it was reported that 'the question of efficiency had better not be raised. It is doing good work as a ragged school in a very poor district, but the methods etc. could not be recognised by the Department.'¹⁷⁰ At around this time an Inspector referred to the Cross Street premises as being the 'former girls' school' suggesting that all girls may have transferred back to Church Square.¹⁷¹

The number of boys had increased to 149¹⁷² by 1875 but few National pupils reached any satisfactory standards by the time they left school and it was recorded that the standard of the Blue Coat boarders had declined since the merger.¹⁷³ Funds

¹⁵⁷ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 394.

¹⁵⁸ Parl. Paper 1819 (224) 827.

¹⁵⁹ Parl. Paper 1826 (382) 14, 393.

¹⁶⁰ *White's Dir. Hants & loW.* (1859). 489.

¹⁶¹ HRO, 114A06/1/1.

¹⁶² HRO, 46M97/19.

¹⁶³ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/1.

¹⁶⁴ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/1.

¹⁶⁵ HRO, 8M62/C3/4.

¹⁶⁶ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/1.

¹⁶⁷ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/3(i).

¹⁶⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1885).

¹⁶⁹ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/4.

¹⁷⁰ PRO, ED 2/191.

¹⁷¹ HRO, 8M62/C3/2/3.

¹⁷² HRO, 8M62/C3/2/4.

¹⁷³ PRO, ED 27/1508.

were so low that the ability to pay teachers' salaries was in doubt and to resolve this problem, parishioners were urged to consider whether a compulsory rate should be charged and a School Board created,¹⁷⁴ but this was not formed until 1885.

New rules were drawn up in 1876. Hours were 9am to 2pm and weekly fees for junior children depended on the earnings of the parents¹⁷⁵ but infants attended free of charge. It was strictly enforced that children should attend with clean hands and faces, tidy clothes and neatly brushed hair. Medals were awarded to boys for regular attendance, attainments and good conduct; girls received work boxes and prizes were given for the best scholars in each subject.¹⁷⁶

The schools ultimately suffered from occupying privately owned premises where space was poorly arranged and there was little incentive to make repairs; they were condemned as failing to meet the Educational Department requirements. Parents were urged to ensure that their children attended regularly, particularly daughters, so that the schools could qualify for maximum Government grants.¹⁷⁷

A few children left to enrol at the Roman Catholic school which opened in 1879¹⁷⁸ and in the same year Cross Street ceased to be used by Blue Coat scholars¹⁷⁹ leaving the whole premises available to National children. After the formation of the School Board the three schools continued to use the dilapidating buildings without the benefit of Government or Corporation grants¹⁸⁰ until the opening of the Fairfield Board Schools in 1888 when all children transferred to the new premises.

With the closure of the National Schools, Thomas and Sophia Sheppard's funds were consolidated with other bequests¹⁸¹ to provide a new Basingstoke Church of England Sunday Schools charity which continued until 2006.¹⁸²

BRITISH SCHOOL 1838-1888

Provision to 1870

A public meeting held on 23rd June 1832 resolved that an institution suitable for affording the children of the poor with a scriptural education should be built in Basingstoke. The British Schools were started as an infants' school in 1838 in the Congregational Church¹⁸³ following the Glasgow system which favoured only trained teachers rather than the use of monitors in the classroom. The room soon became too small and construction of a Nonconformist British School commenced in 1840 on

¹⁷⁴ HRO, 8M62/C3/4.

¹⁷⁵ HRO, 8M62/C3/3. Parents receiving £1 a week contributed 4d for the first child and 2d for subsequent scholars. Lower earners paid 3d for the first and 2d for siblings and those receiving less than 16s a week paid 2d for each child.

¹⁷⁶ HRO, 8M62/C3/3.

¹⁷⁷ E. Stokes, *The Making of Basingstoke* (2008), 164.

¹⁷⁸ HRO, 114A06/1/1.

¹⁷⁹ PRO, ED 27/1508.

¹⁸⁰ PRO, ED 2/191.

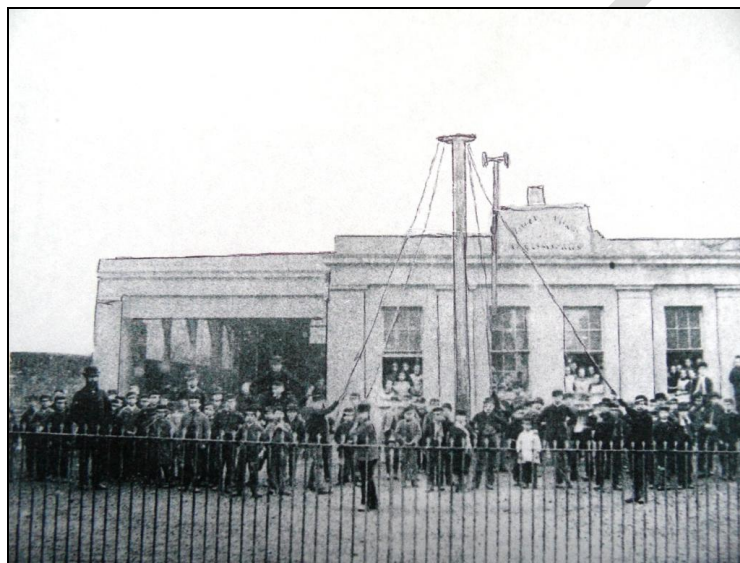
¹⁸¹ HRO, 154A06/1/1 James Lancaster £13 6s 8d, Thomas Hooker £2 18s 9d, Mrs Waldo £2 18s 9d; HRO, 8M62/C3/2/8 Sheppard £30.

¹⁸² Charity Commission website (accessed Jan 2012), no 307184.

¹⁸³ E. Stokes, *The Making of Basingstoke* (2008) 163.

the southern side of Sarum Hill on land bounded on two sides by meadows, conveyed to four Trustees.¹⁸⁴ The £486 required for the construction was raised by subscription¹⁸⁵ and the school opened on 5th July 1841 but by the end of its first year had come under the auspices of the British & Foreign School Society.¹⁸⁶

The first appointed Head Teacher was George Gage. The school was unusual in being co-educational and was initially trialled for three years¹⁸⁷ but good support resulted in 2,219 pupils attending during the period April 1843 to December 1875.¹⁸⁸ A second classroom and covered playground were added to accommodate the growing number of children. The cost of the school management was met by the children's pence, supplemented by subscriptions from friends of the school and a Capitation Grant which was received from the Government in 1862 for the first time.¹⁸⁹ It was not until 1877 that voluntary contributions were superseded by an annual grant from the Corporation.¹⁹⁰



Basingstoke British School (built 1840)¹⁹¹

1870-1902

An Inspector's report in 1875 reported the success of the school and he noted that one hundred pupils had entered Freehand, Model and Geometrical Drawing examinations. The number of children on the register in 1876 was 142 boys and 64 girls.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁴ HRO 8M62/C2/23 Land purchased for £123 15s from Edward Covey, surgeon. Trustees: George Paice, Joseph Marshall, Charles Simmons, James Wright.

¹⁸⁵ HRO 8M62/C2/23 Nine gentlemen each subscribed £54.

¹⁸⁶ TNA: PRO, ED 103/117.

¹⁸⁷ HRO, 8M62/C2/23.

¹⁸⁸ TNA: PRO, ED 2/191, 22 Jun 1888

¹⁸⁹ HRO, 8M62/C2/21.

¹⁹⁰ HRO, 8M62/C2/21.

¹⁹¹ Photograph loaned by Robert Brown.

¹⁹² TNA: PRO, ED 2/191, 22 Jun 1888.

The following year £150 was given by the Education Department towards £758 requested to erect a new school for infants on the northern side of Sarum Hill¹⁹³ catering for scholars living within a quarter of a mile radius. The balance of the money was raised by additional grants from the Corporation of Basingstoke, the British and Foreign School Society and more local subscriptions.¹⁹⁴

These premises consisted of a school room 42ft x 20ft for 105 infants and a class room 20ft x 18ft for 45 pupils. It opened on 13th September 1875, but only 47 children attended initially. The certificated teacher, Miss Naomi Russell, was certain more scholars would enrol 'when the weather was more favourable for little children'.¹⁹⁵

By 1884 the total roll was 134 boys, 96 girls and 148 infants. The Master was still Mr Gage, supported by two assistants in the Upper School; the Infant School had one Mistress; each department had two pupil teachers.¹⁹⁶

A proposal to provide an additional school for 200 girls¹⁹⁷ was superseded in 1885 as the Fairfield's Board Schools in Council Road were already planned, to accommodate 1,310 scholars. A new construction was preferred as the British School buildings had been condemned by the Education Department.¹⁹⁸ In September of that year all feeder schools to Fairfield's – the Nationals¹⁹⁹ and British - were advised that Government and Corporation grants would cease.²⁰⁰ The dilapidating schools continued to be used for a further three years, after which all children transferred to Fairfield's with Mr Gage as Headmaster.²⁰¹ Consequently the British School premises became vacant; the Junior School was purchased in 1890 by Walter Wadmore and used as a fruit and vegetable store.²⁰²

1902-1944

Application was made to the Education Department and the Charity Commission for unprecedented permission to put the proceeds of sale towards scholarships and evening classes for children attending the Board School. The usual condition was that funds should go towards the construction of a new school, but in this case this was irrelevant. Permission was granted in 1910 and the Basingstoke Evening School Foundation was formed. Two prizes were proposed, to be equally divided between boys and girls, one for juniors (13-16 year olds) and one for seniors over 16.²⁰³ The Junior Exhibition was to cover class fees and in some cases a payment of not more than £1 to be applied towards books, mathematical instruments etc. The Senior Exhibition was to be used at University College, Reading or other approved institution of technical, professional or industrial instruction for pupils over 16

¹⁹³ TNA: PRO, ED 103/117 The land was purchased for £189 on a 999 year lease from John May, Esq.

¹⁹⁴ TNA: PRO, ED 103/117.

¹⁹⁵ TNA: PRO, ED 103/117.

¹⁹⁶ HRO, 8M62/C2/21.

¹⁹⁷ HRO, 8M62/C2/21.

¹⁹⁸ HRO, 22M88/1, 1 Sept 1885, 14.

¹⁹⁹ Above National Schools.

²⁰⁰ TNA: PRO, ED 2/191, 28 Apr 1886.

²⁰¹ TNA: PRO, ED 21/6272, 28 Feb 1888.

²⁰² *Hants & Berks Gazette*, 22 Sept 1978.

²⁰³ HRO, 8M62/C2/24/18.

years.²⁰⁴ The Foundation lasted until 1999, by which time the funds were exhausted.²⁰⁵

In 1908 the Junior School premises were sold to the Baptists for £550 and converted into a church but later demolished for a new construction. Until 1912 the infants' building was used by Miss Waterson as a private school²⁰⁶ after which it was refitted and used by the Council as a cookery instruction centre and technical school for children who had to walk from Fairfields School. It was subsequently used as an arts centre, domestic science school, youth theatre workshop and Irish Centre. In 2000 it became the Albirr Mosque.



The Albirr Mosque, the Former Infants' British School, Sarum Hill

²⁰⁴ HRO, 8M62/C2/27/1.

²⁰⁵ Charity Commission website (accessed Sept 2011), no. 307292.

²⁰⁶ *Hants & Berks Gazette*, 22 Sept 1978.