

DAMERHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

1863 – 1980

EXCERPTS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG BOOKS



STATEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN BUILDING THE SCHOOLROOM

	£	s	d
Carpenter's bill	70	0	0
Bricklayers	45	12	6
Mr. Nicklen's bill for bricks	57	0	0
Messrs. Alexander's (Glazing) bill	13	19	9
Mr. Blanchard for slate	13	12	0
Messrs. Percy and Hillary	5	11	5
Mr. Brown for stone		15	0
Mr. Lush's bill for carriage	1	10	0
Mr. Tilley's bill	3	10	0
Mr. Master's bill	2	10	0
Mr. Scamel's bill	1	12	0
	216	11	2

A LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS ERECTING AND SUPPORTING A NATIONAL SCHOOL AT DAMERHAM

	DONATIONS				ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION			
	£	s	d		£	s	d	
Lord Shaftesbury	Paid	25	0	0	Paid	5	0	0
The Bishop of Salisbury	Paid	100	0	0		-	-	-
National Society		40	0	0		-	-	-
Lady Coote	Paid	2	0	0	Paid	1	0	0
Mrs. Coote	Paid	2	0	0	Paid	1	0	0
R. Browncher, Esq.								
H. Oake, Esq.								
J. Colles, Esq.		2	0	0	Paid		10	0
R. Smart, Esq.								
J. Burbige, Esq.								
Rev'd J. Longlands		10	0	0		5	0	0
Rev'd K. Taylor		5	0	0		3	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Ayliffe	Paid	2	0	0	Paid		10	0
Mr. J. Tilley	Paid	2	10	0		2	0	0
Mr. Lush		2	10	0		1	0	0
Mr. Fowler		-	-	-		1	0	0
Mr. Brown						1	0	0
Mr. Brewer						1	0	0
Mr. C. Woodrow						1	0	0
Mr. J. Waters					Paid		10	0
Mr. F. Cower							10	0
Mr. Hannan							10	0
Mr. Scamell		2	12	0			10	0
Mr. J. Woodrow							10	0

Mr Hibberd
Messrs. Masters and Man 2 10 0
Mr. J. Smart
Mr. Welch

EXCERPTS FROM DAMERHAM SCHOOL LOGBOOKS APRIL 1863 – DECEMBER 1980

April	1863	John Ambrose	Head
	1863	Jane Ambrose	Infants & Needlework
May 11	1863	No school in afternoon owing to an awful fire which broke out in the village about 1 o'clock	
May 12	1863	No school in consequence of the fire	
May 13	1863	58 present in morning and afternoon. The falling off in attendance was owing to the fire, a great number of the scholars and their friends being burnt out of their homes.	
June 1	1863	Master absent 20 minutes chasing Jessie Blake who was playing truant	
June 9	1863	Charles Young using foul language – his mother told and said she did not know he used such language.	
July 13	1863	Low attendance. Pupils employed 'bird scaring' ¹ .	
July 16	1863	Charles Frampton (his mother being a poor widow) threw a stone and broke a window. No play for one week..	
July 29	1863	Poor attendance due to many pupils attending a ceremony for the laying of the corner stone of the new Baptist Chapel.	
Sept 11	1863	School closed PM for room washing.	
Sept 14	1863	Many children away gleaning.	
Sept 18	1863	Many children away potato and acorn picking.	
Sept 29	1863	Many children away gleaning. Despite parents promises to the contrary.	
Oct 8	1863	Some children played in meadow opposite the school in the dinner period and came in very wet and dirty. They were cautioned not to do it again.	
Mar 24	1864	6 boys late in PM after following fox and hounds	
April 13	1864	Cautioned some children to come to school with cleaner pinafores.	
Sept 7	1864	School closed for burial of Eyre Coote Esq.	
Feb 6	1865	Cautioned children not to walk along school playground walls.	
Nov 27	1865	Accusations of brutality and foul language leveled at Headmaster by a parent. Exonerated	
Mar 16	1866	Fast day for "Cattle Plague" ²	
Jan	1867	School closed due to heavy snowfalls	
Late Dec	1868	School closed – mumps epidemic	
Feb	1869	Measles epidemic	
June 22	1871	Holiday for the Festival of the 'Damerham Club'	
June 17	1872	Many pupils absent in afternoon. Later it was discovered they had attended a menagerie at Fordingbridge.	
Aug 14	1879	Mr T. Buckwell-Stover – Temporary Head	
Mar 22	1880	School closed in PM for Baptist tea party. ³	

¹ The log books show that up to approximately the 1920's children were kept at home during March for potato planting, in July/August for haymaking and harvest and again in September/October for gleaning, potato picking, apple picking and acorn collecting. All this was generally accepted by the School Manager (the parish vicar) however the use of older boys at West Park, by gamekeepers for cover beating etc., during 'shooting parties' was much frowned upon and as a consequence much correspondence was sent to the Estate on the matter. It would appear the boys families needed the money and they were cheap labour for the gamekeepers. The Estate was after all the owner of most of the village houses and the main employer of parents. This practice continued on for at least 45 years!

² Also known as 'Rinderpest' an infectious disease of ruminant (cud chewing) mammals, characterized by blood in the faeces fever and swelling of the mucous membranes.

Sept 29 1879 – July 9 th 1880	David Oliver Jenkins	Head Teacher
July 13 – Sept 28 1880	Edward Rawlins-Bowden	Head Teacher
Oct 4 1880 – Oct 20 1881	Hugh Leslie	Head Teacher
	Elizabeth Leslie	Infants & Needlework
Nov 1 1880	Sent a number of children to clean their fingernails and get their handkerchiefs. Two blackboards. Two easels with blackboards have been added to the school equipment.	
Nov 19 1880	I do not expect very satisfactory results until every child is provided with a book and slate of their own as they ought to be. Some have purchased their own. – H Leslie – Headmaster.	
Dec 9 1880	While showing a pocket compass to the class, Ellen Frampton sprang upon a form and knocked the glass off one of the oil lamps.	
Jan 17 1881	Mother of Ellen Frampton refused for a third time to pay for the broken lamp glass.	
Jan 20 1881	Roads blocked with snow, attendance low. The vicar sent a message into the school this morning asking if I would clear away the snow from the foot-walks in the school house garden and also if I would assist the gardener to clear the road to the church. I had already begun to do the former as opportunity presented itself but I could not consent to the latter.	
Jan 31 1881	Ellen Frampton brought 6d to pay for the lamp glass which she broke. I gave it to the vicar who spoke with censure of the conduct of the mother.	
April 19 1881	School library started	
July 11 1881	School bell chain broken Mr Percy (blacksmith) called in for repair. Informed the Manager (Rev. Owen) of the lack of geography books.	
July 22 1881	Smallpox outbreak in the Ambrose family, Mill End. School closed.	
Oct 18 1881	Portion of the wooden floor in boys urinal gave way and fell into cesspool.	
Nov 21 1881	Edward Page – Headmaster Mrs Page – Infants & Sewing	
Dec 21 1881	Poor attendance in PM. Master found out later this was due to many children go to West Park to see Prince Leopold of The Belgians (cousin of Queen Victoria) who was visiting there.	
Dec 25 1881	One day only, holiday given (no reason for this in logbook)	



Approx 1882 – Ada Bush, mother of Daisy Nicklen

³ It would appear that for many years the Baptist Chapel's tea parties, outings etc., affected the attendance at school; many parents being staunch Baptists. Later a holiday was given for the "Temperance Festival" possibly connected with the visits by the 'Band of Hope' The Temperance Movement was formed in the US as a response to the social evils caused by alcoholism which was widespread in 18th and 19th centuries. The original aim was to moderate drinking but prohibition became the goal. The Temperance Festival, held in the "village grounds" probably the field on the left in Cornpits Lane opposite Laurel Cottage during July seems to have been the forerunner to the Annual Flower Show.

March 3 1882	First mention in logs of "The Conscience Clause" catholic parents refused to allow their children to learn the Catechism.	
Sept 29 1882	Parents complaining of lack of copy books in school	
Oct 25 1882	First mention of school photographs.	
Dec 6 1882	30 absent due to Cranborne Fair	
Jan 1 1883	Alfred William Kitcalt – Headmaster and his sister Ada Seline Kitcalt Infants & Sewing. On taking up his post the master noted "children intelligent but very backwards".	
Sept 17 1883	Aquilla Jerrard was late and lost his attending mark ⁴ .	
Mar 14 1884	Rev. Owen invited children to his meadow for an apple scramble.	
July 4 1884	The attendance has been somewhat better this week, no doubt due to the parents of Harry White and Aquilla Jerrard being fined for not sending their children to school.	
July 31 1884	Half day holiday. Children marched to the school fete held in the village grounds in Cornpits Lane.	
Sept 19 1884	Miss Kitcalt obliged to go to the doctor in Fordingbridge to have teeth removed.	
Nov 30 1884	Parents of Emily and Kate Beauchamps, Aquilla Jerrard, Harry White, Mary Stayner and George Frampton were fined by magistrates in Ringwood for not sending their children to school.	
Feb 9 1885	Mr Percy (blacksmith) sent for to repair stove in infants room.	
Mar 2 1885	Earnest Ambrose attending school with a bad hand the top of his finger being cut off by a chaff-cutter.	
July 23 1885	Half day holiday – Princess Beatrice's wedding day	
Sept 7 1885	Alfred John Johncock of Barham – Head Teacher Mary Annie Johncock – Infants	
March 23 1886	Patent slate cleaner introduced to promote cleanliness amongst the children.	
June 21 1886	Charles Geoffrey Cobb of Hollingbourne, Alton - Headmaster Elizabeth Waller Cobb – Infants & Needlework	
June 30 1887	Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee medals distributed throughout the school by Rev. Owen.	
July 15 1887	Measles epidemic in village.	
Nov 11 1887	Many boys away working for shooting parties at West Park.	
June 22 1888	Diphtheria outbreak in village – school closed by Medical Authorities until further notice. John Bailey and Willie Read died as a result. Reopened September 10 th 1888.	
Dec 7 1888	Diphtheria outbreak in a village family but school not closed.	
Dec 2 1889	Margaret Hannah Cobb – Infants & needlework.	
June 20 1890	The one day holiday previously given to mark the anniversary of the coronation of Queen Victoria (on June 28 th) now given on the anniversary of the accession (June 20 th).	
July 22 1891	School closed in PM for Temperance Fete.	
Sept 21 1891	Edward William Sylvester – Headmaster (trained at Winchester) Mrs Sylvester – Infants and needlework.	
Sept 23 1891	Drawing lesson on paper for first time.	
Sept 30 1891	Two pupils aged 9 and 10 years put back to infants class for being (in the master's opinion) "too dull".	
Oct 12 1891	Sidney Read re-admitted (he was the father of Jim Read at Southend)	
Dec 7 1891	Letter sent by the Manager (Rev. Owen) to the Head Gamekeeper at West Park Estate regarding the use of boys of school age, as "cover beaters" (obviously cheap labour). ⁵	

⁴ He was later to become the last person to operate the corn mill at Mill End.

⁵ The school made a great number of complaints about this subject but to no avail. The practice continued on for at least 30 years and gradually fizzled out

Feb 1	1892	"Bacons" memory maps and "Excelsior" Globe (the first one for 29 years) were introduced.
Feb 19	1892	Great snow storm.
Feb 25	1892	Large bible presented to school by Rev. Owen.
Aug 12	1892	School closed for the Harvest holiday 4 weeks
Nov 11	1892	Low attendance due to boys "cover beating" for West Park shooting parties.
Nov 18	1892	The first mention of children from "Dr. Barnardo's Home" being admitted to school.
Jan 17	1893	3 dozen musical bells introduced.
June 9	1893	Ringworm outbreak
June 23	1893	Ringworm prevalent
July 6	1893	Half day holiday in honour of the marriage of The Duke of York with Mary of Teck. (later George V and Queen Mary)
July 21	1893	Poor attendance due "Band of Hope" excursion to Bournemouth.
Sept 6	1893	Thomas Buckwell Stoner – Temp. Headmaster Daughter Sophie - Infants & Mrs Stoner – Sewing
Sept 8	1893	School closed for children to attend tea-party given at West Park by Mrs Coote ⁶ this was the first of what was to become an annual event.
Sept 26	1893	Edith A Owen took charge of school (temp).
Nov 20	1893	H Brown - Temporary Headmaster Mrs Nation – Sewing (School was closed from 8 th – 20 th November 1893 due to Mrs Owen's deteriorating health).
Dec 6	1893	Many boys absent to take part in a "perambulation of the parish boundaries" they will not be present for some days. ⁷ .
Jan 1	1894	Arthur J Smith – Student Temp. Headmaster
Jan 15	1894	William Douglas – Head Teacher
Jan 26	1894	School keys lost - great anxiety caused to the master – found after 2 days of searching.
Feb 5	1894	Mrs M Slater – Infants
Feb 9	1894	A letter was entrusted to a scholar by master to be taken to a village person in distress. It was not delivered causing "painful distress" to the master and the vicar. Half day holiday given after school inspection. Half day holiday was also given after the quarterly examinations. This practice continued for many years.
June 18	1894	'Play Time' introduced in afternoon 3 – 3.10pm
July 6	1894	West Park Fete – School closed.
July 31	1894	Rev. Owen addressed the scholars on 'the want of care shown to public property'. ⁸
Nov 28	1894	Another letter sent to West Park re: use of boys 'cover beating'.
Jan 28	1895	11 boys 'beating' at West Park.
Mar 25	1895	Herbert Legg repeatedly refused to do as he was told stating that his mother told him not to. After consultation with Rev. Owen he was expelled.
Oct 21	1896	G Adams and Walter Tiller flogged for laughing during prayer time.
March 20	1896	Holiday given after church service and consecration of the new burial ground area.
June 16	1896	New song books introduced "Young Voices"

⁶ Later to become Lady Coote, whose portrait, together with her husband Sir Eyre Coote hangs to this day in the Damerham Village Hall. Portraits were fully restored in 1996, with funds raised by the villagers.

⁷ Possibly connected with the moving of Damerham from the county of Wiltshire to Hampshire which happened about this time

⁸ The vicar regularly addressed the scholars on 'moral' topics such as 'good manners' 'vanity and jealousy' 'personal hygiene' (care of fingernails and teeth etc) 'respect for people and private property', 'lies and untruths', 'swearing and cursing' etc

Sept 14 –	1896	School closed due to measles epidemic
Oct 26		
22 & 23	1897	Two days holiday given for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations for H.M. Queen Victoria. All pupils were presented with "The Jubilee Testament".
June		
Oct 4	1897	Royal copy books replaced the "upright system"
Oct 22	1897	Many children away with whooping cough.
Oct 27	1897	10 boys employed at Hyde for "keeping birds back".
Jan 3 –	1898	School closed due to master and mistress's illness
Jan 31		
Mar 22	1898	Vicar lectured scholars on the dangers of catapults and stone throwing.
Nov 30	1898	Miss E M Wood – Infant teacher.
May 3	1899	William Brockway sent home. His mother was required to keep him home until the "suspicious looking rash" on his face should disappear.
May 19	1899	Miss E M Wood left the school.
May 14	1899	Rev. Owen wrote to Dr Barnardo. Pointing out to him the presence of his "waifs and strays" here had necessitated an additional teacher and asked him to help financially or the children would be sent away from the village.
June 19	1899	Dr Barnardo agreed to pay 6d per week per child. Had the reply come sooner Miss E M Wood would still be teaching here!
June 23	1899	German measles outbreak
Sept 17	1900	Miss Elizabeth Seabright – Infants teacher.
Nov 19 –	1900	School closed for measles outbreak.
Dec 31		
Mar 28	1902	Two large paintings of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra hung in upper classroom and one of the late Queen Victorian hung in infants room.
June 23	1902	School holiday for the Coronation of King Edward & Queen Alexandra. All pupils given Coronation medal.
Sept 8	1902	Miss Jones – Infants teacher replacing Miss Seabright who left August 8 1902
May	1903	Last entry by Rev. William Owen as Manager.
Sept 29	1903	Lost 12 children by the change of farms (?)
Oct 1	1903	The school now comes under County Council regulations.
Nov 24	1904	"Lantern" lecture on the "noted towns of Great Britain and Ireland".



Some of Pupils 1907. Boy on Left - Bernard Bailey, Boy sitting - Charlie Colbourne. Taken & presented to Bernard Bailey aged 10, for regular attendance 424 out of 434 days.

Jan 18 1905 Sir Eyre & Lady Evelyn Coote start visiting school.
 May 17 1907 Roof ventilating tubes inserted in ceiling.
 July 5 1907 Charles Drewitt injured his leg during playtime, whilst trying to tilt some girls off a form.
 Nov 15 1907 Severely reprimanded May Bungay for rushing excitedly about the playground and knocking down George Palmer injuring his shoulder.
 Dec 13 1907 Holiday – Lady Coote gave tea and a present to all the children.
 May 18 – 1908 School closed due to whooping cough outbreak.
 June 19
 Jan 11 1909 Miss Marguerite Egan – Teaching Class 1 and 2.
 May 12 1909 Report by H M Inspector of Schools R. M. Fowler noted “the master manages to turn to good account, his own taste for beekeeping”.
 Sept 6 1909 The old board floors and partition removed during the harvest holidays, wood block floor laid and a glazed folding partition with door substituted.
 Nov 8 1909 Miss Bull – Supply teacher (2 weeks) (Miss Egan ill)
 June 6 1910 Violet Chilcott Board - Temporary teacher.
 Oct 10 1910 Commenced firing (coke stove heating) – Northerly wind – nearly smoked out!
 Oct 20 Lady Coote presented prizes for regular attendance Her Ladyship and Sir Eyre Coote watched the children at physical drill.
 Dec 21 1910 Miss Chilcott-Board left the school.
 Jan 9 1911 Miss May Lilian Whately appointed.
 Jan 12 1911 Strong northerly wind – fires very smoky.
 Jan 25 1911 Master absent with “wryneck”.⁹
 Feb 10 1911 Miss Slater left after 17 years service.
 Mar 13 1911 Miss Daisy Bedford – Infant teacher.
 June 13 1911 Measles epidemic. School closed until July 3 1911.¹⁰
 June 12 1912 Ringworm outbreak.
 June 25 1913 Miss Whately left to teach at Martin School.
 June 26 1913 Miss K M Stratton – Supply teacher.
 July 16 1913 Miss Mabel Jesse Scivier – Supply teacher.
 Aug 1 1913 Miss Mabel Jesse Scivier left.
 Sept 1913 School enlargement extra class room added to east end of school.
 Sept 15 1913 Mrs N G Douglas (nee Jones) Teacher – Classes 1 & 2.
 Sept 22 – 1913 Work carried on under most trying circumstances workmen hammering and sawing a few feet away – all oral lessons abandoned.
 Oct 13 1913 Dr Teare medical officer excludes 2 pupils for having verminous heads.
 Nov 4 1913 Caretaker did not sweep gutter of boys urinal or empty all the pails in the closets.

Agreement between School and Caretaker

Caretaker undertakes to empty all the closet pails by depositing the contents in the Pit provided for the purpose and before replacing to fill each pail in the boys’ closets and that of the Master’s with dry earth to a depth of three inches and each pail in the girls’ and infants’ closets with water also to a depth of three inches as from the evening of the third day of September nineteen hundred and six and thereafter every evening excepting Saturdays Sundays and during holidays until either of the parties hereto shall give to the other four weeks notice to terminate this agreement and the said caretaker engages to do the work in a cleanly manner so as to give no cause for complaint and as often as may be necessary to thoroughly cleanse all pails and from time to time fill up the receptacles for the storage of earth so as always to have a constant supply of dry earth to draw from for purposes of daily use.

Feb 4 1914 Herbert Nicklen sent home with chicken-pox

⁹ Condition in which head leans permanently to the shoulder

¹⁰ The closure of the school may account for the absence from the logs of any mention of the opening of the new village hall in the summer of 1911 and the Coronation of George V & Queen Mary on 22 June 1911.

Mar 19 1915 Five boys lost during last fortnight, claimed under the “Robson Act”.¹¹
 May 10 1915 Five boys who refused to do gardening, supported by their parents, were temporarily expelled, until parents complied with the Managers demands.
 May 17 1916 School closed for the funeral of the Rev. William Owen. Vicar of Damerham parish for 54 years.
 June 21 1916 Dr Galbraith visited and examined Kate Jerrard. Kate was very backwards and did not attend school until the age of 7 ½ years and was excluded on 29th June 1917 at the age of 13 years. The masters “cause for leaving” was “hopeless imbecile” she died aged 38 years.¹²
 July 21 1916 School closed due to whooping cough epidemic and harvest holidays
 Classroom dimensions Infant Room – 16' x 18'
 Middle Room – 25'6" x 18'
 New Room – 24'6" x 18'
 Sept 21 1916 Albert Jerrard away from school after having his foot cut off in an accident with a grass cutter at Knoll Farm. (He was taken by open cart across Knoll & Toyd Down to Salisbury Infirmary only after work in fields had finished) He returned to school on 23 April 1917.
 Sept 17 1917 Dorothea Ivy Jerrard – Student teacher
 Sept 18 1917 Lady Coote gave each child 6d.
 Sept 26 1917 Miss Daisy Bedford resigns as infants’ teacher.
 Sept 29 1917 Miss D Jerrard in charge of infants.
 Jan 7 1917 Miss Elsie Tiller commenced duties as monitoress.
 July 29 1918 Miss Jerrard left the school
 Nov 11 1918 School closed due to influenza until 25 November 1918
 June 11 1919 Holiday given for peace day.
 July 23 1919 Leslie Lush gained a scholarship A-standard and will attend Bishop Wordsworths School, Salisbury in September 1919.
 Nov 5 1919 Mr W Main presented the school with a glass case containing two Australian Parrots and two Love-Birds (stuffed).
 Nov 11 1919 Armistice Day – the King’s letter was read and two minutes silence was observed.
 June 8 1920 “Dairy Class” held in village hall.



1920-21

¹¹ Act decreed boys of a certain age could be exempted from school to do essential war-related work.

¹² Nellie Tiller remembers Kate taking a toy from her and her sisters which of course they wanted back but their mother said they must let her keep it.

Nov 10	1920	Children sang a song for Lady Coote, composed by herself.
Jan 20	1921	First mention of "National Savings" at the school.
April 3	1922	Miss Nellie Tiller – Monitoress.
July 21	1922	Flower show – half day holiday ("Temperance Fete" previously held at this time).
Sept 6	1922	Irene Rogers (Goodridge) and Harold Lush awarded scholarships A-standard for Grammar School
April 26	1923	One day holiday in honour of the marriage of the Duke of York with Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon later to become King George VI & Queen Elizabeth (The Queen Mother).
June 4	1924	First entry in log book by Rev. Henry Moule.
Jan 6	1926	First entry re: Dental inspection in log.
Jan 26	1926	Mr & Mrs Douglas presented with a "hot water jug" by Rev. Henry Moule, Mrs Moule and Miss Marjorie Hockey.
Jan 29	1926	William and Nona Douglas resigned their posts as Head and Infants teacher.
Feb 3	1926	School ran for one week under Mr F W C Knocknull
Feb 8	1926	Mr M F Whippe – Head Teacher Miss O A Lloyd – Assistant Teacher
March 31	1926	Mr M F Whippe concluded duties as Head.



*Miss O A Lloyd Asst Teacher
appointed Feb 8 1926*

April 12	1926	Gertrude A Barnes – Head Teacher. Nellie Tiller no longer at school due to class re-organisation. Hand work replaced gardening for boys after 63 years.
June 14	1926	Gladys Plant – Monitoress.
June 16	1926	Dorothea Jerrard – School Assistant.
Feb 17	1927	Nature walk along church path. (Road)
Feb 1 st	1929	Dorothea Jerrard left the school.
Feb 18	1929	Elsie Tiller – Teaching Assistant.
Sept 19	1930	Elsie Tiller left the school.
Jan 5	1931	Lilian Mary Deacon – Supply Teacher.

Jan 18 1932 Miss Nellie Tiller – Assistant Teacher.



1936

June 5	1934	Miss N Tiller attending St Marks Infants School, Salisbury for observation.
Dec 7	1934	Ralph Colbourne aged 13 years fell whilst playing football and broke a bone in his wrist.
Jan 28	1936	School closed for funeral of the late King George V
Aug 26	1939	Miss G Barnes resigned as Head Teacher (no reason given).
Sept to	1939	The following persons took charge of the school and classes for short periods. Maud Moynihan, Miss A Boyce, L M Wolfe, Mrs Shearing, Winnifred Duffield, Mr H G Durman
May	1940	
May 27	1940	Miss Gertrude Barnes returned as Head Teacher.
July 1	1940	Sixteen evacuees from Southampton taken into school.
July 8	1940	Miss Marshall – Classes 1 & 2 Teacher.
May 9	1941	Two windows smashed and one door damaged by a large explosion not far from the school. ¹³
July 8	1942	P C Stone called during morning in connection with complaints made concerning the behavior of children on their way home to Bowlesbury (the spelling later seems to have changed to Bouldsbury).
July 31	1942	The school will be open during the summer holiday with one teacher in charge for those who wish to attend. Summer holiday was split between August and October this year.
May 27	1943	Capt. Myles visited the school and tested the children's gas masks.
Dec 22	1943	School closed at 3pm. The American forces were giving a party for the children of the village. ¹⁴
Aug 31	1944	Capt. Myles and Mr Palmer visited the school re: Air-raid prevention.
Sept 29	1944	Mrs Gertrude Cann (nee Barnes) resigned as Head Teacher of the school.
Oct 6	1944	Frances Betty Hambrook in temporary charge. Nellie Tiller – Infants
Oct 11	1944	John Hooper fell in lobby and sprained his knee

¹³ The explosion was at the Army's ammunition dump at Knoll on the Martin Road area after known to locals as the "Bomb Belt".

¹⁴ The forerunner to the "children's party" which was held annually thereafter and ran for 50 years. The last was held in January 1997.

Oct 24	1944	"Owing to the congestion on all the buses I was unable to reach Damerham until late morning (Monday). Miss Tiller ably managed the school in my absence" – Miss Hambrook.
Nov 6 – Feb 4	1945	Mrs M Sideaway in Temporary charge.
Feb 5	1945	Miss Mary Taylor MacKenzie became Headmistress.
April 13	1945	School closed for one week for potato planting.
May 8/9	1945	Two days holiday given to celebrate "Victory in Europe".
July 27	1945	The first mention of a "sports day" which was held in the cricket field.
Sept 21	1945	Two weeks closure for potato picking.
Oct 28	1945	Irene Bush fell on desk and cut the inside of her mouth.
Jan 8	1946	Staff and pupils attended the funeral of Patrick Penny who sadly died suddenly on 4 th Jan 1946.
Feb 4	1946	School visit to printing press in Salisbury
Feb 19	1946	40lbs of cocoa given by Mrs Morley distributed to all the children.
Mar 7	1946	Equipment for cooking and serving of school meals arrived. Even though much awaited and sanctioned kitchen has not yet been built.
May 15	1946	Kitchen equipment returned to Winchester.
July 10	1946	Miss Tiller attended a National Savings Rally at Southampton
July 25	1946	22 children from Martin brought to the school until further notice.
Oct 7	1946	Mrs Shearing resigned as cleaner.
Oct 23	1946	Wessex Electricity Co. visited the school regarding installation of the electric lighting in school.
Nov 11	1946	P. C. Barnes warned children not to cycle through the Green Close gates.
Jan 16	1947	Electricity being installed into the school by the Wessex Electricity Company.
Feb 13	1947	Electricity installation completed.
Mar 26	1947	Gordon Baverstock won 3/6d in the "Turog" observation competition.
May 23	1947	A plug (socket) and electric kettle installed in the infants classroom
July 8	1947	School attended a film show and exhibition of models given by Hants. C.C. Safety First Campaign in the village hall.
Sept 8	1947	Container meals started supplied by Rockbourne School. Mrs Shearing & Miss Colbourne – Helpers
Oct 6	1947	Mrs Fox – Caretaker (Miss Jerrard – resigned)
Oct 27	1947	Mr C Wilding – Attendance officer's first visit (later to marry Miss Mackenzie)
Nov 20	1947	School closed for the wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth with Prince Philip Mountbatten.
Dec 8	1947	Mrs Browning – Caretaker.
Dec 16	1947	Roland Nix fell down in the playground during the dinner hour. Apparently David Tiller, David Skinner and Roland all fell over one another. We applied Arnica (a tincture of Arnica Montana used for sprains and bruises) to the bump on his head, but he complained of pain in his foot, his whole leg was put into cold water and a cold compress was applied to the swelling which was by now, disappearing. Miss Tiller <u>then carried him home</u> to Mrs Drewitts home. ¹⁵
Dec 17	1947	Roland Nix in Salisbury Infirmary with a broken leg.
May 14	1948	First mention of "fund raising" for the school and a "jumble sale" made £15-9-6d profit.
June 2	1948	Miss Tiller took nine boys to Southampton to watch a cricket match between Hampshire and Australia.
June 16	1948	Mr Nelson Bush painting the exterior of the school.
June 23	1948	School visit to Cheddar Caves and Bristol Zoo.

¹⁵ In Nov 1999 Miss Nellie Tiller remembers this incident well and how it caused much concern to her and Miss Mackenzie.

July 5	1948	Gordon Baverstock passed entrance to Bishop Wordsworth's School. Margaret Ings and Betty Browning passed entrance exam to the Gregg Commercial School, Southampton.
Jan 3	1949	School closed early for children's party in the hall.



School concert in village hall Dec 20 1950

Feb 8	1950	Hants Water Co. and Mr Nelson Bush installing mains water into the school.
Oct 21	1950	'Siesta Stove' installed in senior classroom by Mr Nelson Bush.
Dec 20	1950	School concert in Village Hall raised £11-15-00d
Feb 22	1951	Water boiler and hot cupboard installed in kitchen which was built, adjoining the lobby and main entrance on the west side, with connecting door to middle classroom and door to playground.
Dec 21	1951	Mrs Brown distributed prizes. ¹⁶
May 30	1952	Telephone installed party line Rockbourne 316.
June 24	1952	Derek Waterman won 3/6 in the Turog handwriting competition.
Nov 28	1952	Graham Colbourne, Janet Goodridge and Bryan Penny all passed preliminary intelligence test.
Nov 28	1952	Mary Baverstock won 5/- postal order in Turog competition.
May 8	1953	The new flagpole was dedicated by Rev. Arthur Phillips.
May 11	1953	Miss K Witt made her first visit to the school to teach music (Friday mornings).
June 2 & 3	1953	School closed for the Coronation of H M Queen Elizabeth II

¹⁶ Mrs Dr Brown from North End House

Sept 9 1953 School was burgled during the night articles missing were: Sewing machine, rotary pencil sharpener, pliers, bradawl, towels, sash cord. Fingerprints of Miss Mackenzie, Miss Tiller and Derek Waterman and all other staff members were taken for elimination purposes. P.C Bowers investigating.

June 15 1954 Outing to Bath, Cheddar and Bristol.

July 20 1954 Derek Waterman won 3/6 in Turog handwriting competition for a second time.

Nov 2 1954 Jacqueline Lawrenson won 2/6 in Turog competition.

Mar 9 1955 Jacqueline Lawrenson was bitten on the cheek by Mr Palmer's dog. First aid was given.

June 28 1955 Paul Nicklen won 3/6 in Turog competition.

Oct 5 1956 Malcolm Jones and Jack Barrell collided during dinner hour. No bones broken. Malcolm was taken by the Headmistress to Dr Michael Vickery in car.

Jan 1957 All pupils over 11 years were transferred to the new Secondary Modern School at Fordingbridge (The Burgate School) 46 pupils now on school role. Pupils transferred were:
 Ann Jerrard – East End, Park Villas
 Wendy Bailey – Northovers, High St.
 Jack Barrell – Bousbury Wood Cottage
 Paul Nicklen – The Common
 Derek Waterman – 'Ivyholme' East End
 Margaret Pearce – Bousbury Cottages
 Peter Michaels – 4 The Terrace
 Raymond Leakey – High St.



Visit of Bishop of Salisbury - Dr Anderson 1957

Oct 24 1957 Mrs Edith Jerrard joined the kitchen staff.

Feb 6 1958 David Bryant fell on gate and cut his eyebrow. Dr Straton put in two stitches.

Feb 11 1958 Jennifer Pike fell and cut lip. Dr Straton put in one stitch.

Mar 18 1958 School log entry written in ball point for the first time.

July 11 1958 Jennifer Oughton won award of merit from "Children's Newspaper" for handwriting.

June 30 1959 Radio installed by Hills of Ringwood (it had a large wooden speaker box varnished with 3 bakelite bars across the loud speaker outlet).

July 8 1959 School meals started coming from Ringwood instead of Rockbourne.

July 16 1959 Marie Woodvine in temporary charge for one week.

May 7 & 8 1960 Visit of ships company of 'HMS Damerham' to Damerham. Programme:-
 8th May:- Arrival in village 12.30pm (approx) Lunch in Village Hall, football match (HMS Damerham V Damerham) 2pm, tea with school children 4.30pm



Visit of HMS Damerham

Children's games and entertainment 6.00pm, Conjuror 6.30pm, Darts Match (HMS Damerham V Damerham) 7.30pm. Social Evening and Dance 8.30pm. Information taken from original programme lucky No 97 which won a miniature Chinese coffee set for the writer. A matching tea set was won by Mrs 'Markie' Tiller.

June 14 1960 Outing to Southampton docks and Beaulieu Motor Museum

Nov 9 1960 Mary Mackenzie married the Attendance Officer, Mr Charles Wilding, children collected for wedding present, a set of saucepans which were kept hidden until the appropriate time on top of the wall mounted square water tank in the middle classroom. The staff gave an electric fry-pan.

Jan 27 1961 Plug (socket) fitted in senior classroom.

April 19 1961 Mrs V Rowe (St George's Cotts) commenced her duties as kitchen helper with Mrs Edith Jerrard.

April 19 1961 Mrs E Bush commenced duties the first school secretary.

April 25 1961 Mr F T Leach commenced duties as peripatetic teacher.¹⁷

June 20 1961 New backing fitted to the piano, embroidered and presented to the school by Mrs E Bush.

Oct 18 1961 New electricity wiring system installed.

Dec 14 1961 First "Open hour" for parents 2.30 – 3.30 pm.

¹⁷ 'Peripatetic' – to walk about while teaching. The writer remembers him sitting more than walking about!!

March 31 1962 Mrs E Bush resigned as school secretary. Mrs A Pearce, The Cottage, Southend, took over duties as school secretary.
 April 14 1962 Miss Witt resigned as music teacher.
 Sept 28 1962 Gardener cut half the hedge and it looks most untidy!
 Jan 9 – 1963 “The big freeze” All sanitation frozen.
 Feb 11
 July 4 1963 Outing to London Airport.
 July 25 1963 P C Kemp gave lecture on safety first and lighting.
 Oct 28 1963 Electric record player purchased. It was positioned in the senior classroom on the north side, below and to the right of the framed picture of “The Laughing Cavalier”.
 June 11 1964 Piano inspected, beyond repair due to woodworm.
 June 30 1964 Keith Lush and Peter Ings accepted for Bishops Wordsworth School.
 Nov 19 1964 Gestetner duplicator demonstrated.



1964

March 15 1965 Lecture by P.C Matchams on care of cycles. Sally Pearce and Michael Jerrard passed 1st part of 11+.
 May 25 1965 Guide dogs for the blind lecture.
 May 30 1965 Sally Pearce accepted for South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury.
 July 5 1965 Outing to Windsor Castle.
 Oct 8 1965 Julian Penny ran into wall and was taken home. No bones were broken.
 Nov 23 1965 Framed photo of “Sally” the schools guide dog, whose training was paid for by fund-raising in the school.
 June 7 1966 Visit to Wilton Carpet Factory. Shaundra Daly gained admission to South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury.
 August 1966 Toilets decorated by Tiller & Sons.
 Feb 14 1967 Electricity fault in dental van caused trouble during treatment. (!) (?)
 June 12 1967 Visit to Corfe Castle and Blue Pool

Jan 10 1968 Telephone overhauled – Full of coal dust.
 August 1968 Teacher’s toilet installed.
 May 9 1969 Stephanie Witt gained admission to South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury.
 June 18 1969 First Inter-school sports at Coombe Bissett
 July 1 1969 Juniors went to the homes of Mrs Wilding, Miss Tiller and Miss Colson (South End) to view on television the investiture of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
 Aug 29 1969 Mrs Mary Wilding resigned as Head Teacher.
 Sept 1 1969 Mrs Doreen Mina Jones took up post as Head Teacher, Mrs Benton part-time and Miss Nellie Tiller Infants.
 Sept 15 1969 Big dividing screen removed.
 Sept 19 1969 Mr Bryant gave logs and tyres for the playground.



Sept 28 1969 Fluorescent lighting fitted throughout.
 Oct 31 1969 New cistern’s fitted to all toilets.
 Feb 2 1970 Mrs A Hope part-time teacher.
 Feb 2 1970 Visit from Rev. Alan and Mrs Mathers (Curate in charge).
 Feb 25 1970 Rev. George Moule left Damerham.
 March 10 1970 Meeting of school managers decided to hold an open meeting about the possible closing of Damerham School.



1973

April 7	1970	Mr Roy Shepherd chairs village meeting in the village hall, recording the proposed closure of the school.
April 20	1970	Miss Nellie Tiller gave in her notice.
May 12	1970	Meeting of the School Managers heard that Rockbourne School would be the most likely to be kept open as it had been recently modernised.
July 17	1970	Retirement presentation for Miss Nellie Tiller.
Sept 2	1970	Mrs Thomas in charge of the infants.
Dec 22	1970	Parents are invited to end of term service.
Jan 27	1971	Permission granted for playing field work to start.
Feb 2	1971	Oil fired heating installed and working in school.
Aug	1971	Coleman Oil heating installed.
Aug 19	1971	During overnight thunderstorm, lighting struck school. Telephone wire down, window frame in west classroom split and two panes of glass shattered. Bricks above window frame displaced and the wooden floor, blocks lifted to an area of one square yard.
Aug 16-27	1971	Coal store converted to a paper store.
Sept 7	1971	Secretary's hours increased from 10 hours to 25 hours a week.
April 19	1972	Visit to Damerham Trout Lakes at the invitation of Mr Harmes.
April 27	1972	Swimming started at Ashburn Hotel.
July 7	1972	Mrs Joyce Philpott helping in the kitchen.
Sept 5	1972	Mrs Morgan infants teacher.
Sept 18	1972	Mrs Ann Quinnell started duties as Crossing Patrol Officer at the "Cross".
Nov 20	1972	One day holiday given for the Silver Wedding Anniversary of H.M The Queen & H.R.H. Prince Philip.
Feb 8	1973	Three of the teachers had their purses stolen, P.C.Murphy investigating.
Feb 22	1973	Melanie Knibbs fell in the playground and injured her shoulder.



*Mrs Doreen Jones Head
teacher 1973*

April 30	1973	Mr Leach left the school to become Head Teacher of Godshill School. Melanie Knibbs and Sheila Jordan accepted for South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury.
Sept 4	1973	Mrs S Easter infants teacher.

Mar 4	1974	Large sink fitted to infants lobby for water-play and washing handwork materials.
June 6	1974	Fiona Summerhayes trapped her fingers in classroom door.
June 24	1974	Permission given to purchase caravan for use as staff room.
July 9	1974	Dawn Griffith accepted for South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury.
Sept 4	1974	School meals now delivered from Rockbourne.
Dec 6	1974	First Christmas Fair and coffee morning held.
Dec 12	1974	Staff caravan siting refused by local authority.
Dec 19	1975	Mrs Hope left the school.
May 14	1976	Mrs Sharon Young teaching infants and 1 st year juniors.
August 22	1976	Screens between classrooms all removed.
June 6	1977	Children made and presented small cakes in the form of Union Jacks to the village for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations on the 7 June 1977. Each child was given a commemorative crown.
Aug 31	1977	Mrs Doreen Mina Jones (Headmistress) left the school.
Sept 1	1977	Rosemary E A Harper Headmistress.
Nov 9	1977	New intake half day visits started.
Dec 9	1977	Clive Isaacs fell in playground and was taken home. No ill effect.
Dec 20	1977	Carols at "The Compasses" followed by refreshments served and given by Mr & Mrs Deamer (Landlord & Lady).
Feb 2	1978	School closed due to the fuel crisis.
Feb 24	1978	Fuel arrived for heating.
Feb 27	1978	School re-opened.
March 16	1978	General letter composed to inform The Village of the known facts about the future of Damerham School.
March 21	1978	The first mention in the "log books" of the Friends of the School.
March 21	1978	Teaching staff took part in N.U.T. sanctions. No school meals served.
April 15	1978	Mr Peter Hooper rotavated a patch of garden for children to plant.
April 25	1978	Children planted their first seeds and the infants donated a "scarecrow" they had made.
May 2	1978	Inaugural meeting of the "Friends of Damerham School".
May 5	1978	Damerham School managers attend a meeting with the managers of Rockbourne School.
May 22	1978	Tim & Carl Herrington gave a recital on cornet & tenor horn.
July 5	1978	School closed at 10am. No mains water at Damerham or Rockbourne.
Dec 19	1978	Carol singing at "The Compasses". The children read and acted. Refreshments given by the Landlord.
Dec 20	1978	School Christmas dinner attended by Mrs M Brown, Miss P Lush & Miss N Tiller. Mrs Edith Jerrard was presented with her leaving present.
Jan 4	1979	Mrs Ann Murphy, kitchen helper. Mrs Cynthia Smith, Schoolroom Assistant.
Jan 19	1979	Miss Harper and Mr Shepherd attended a meeting at Rockbourne School.
March 12	1979	Mr Leslie Lush called to discuss a "Playgroup in the Village Hall".
May 22	1979	Playgroup's opening meeting. Mrs K Harrison, Mrs C Sims, Mrs M Toynton, and Mrs Rooney.
May 24	1979	The public meeting in the Village School proposal for a federal school was accepted.
June 5	1979	Annual General Meeting of "Friends of Damerham School" was held and the constitution approved.
June 7	1979	Mrs Ros Jones took the junior class for the afternoon.
Aug 8	1979	Mrs Doreen Mina Whitehouse (Jones) former Head of the school was interred in Damerham Churchyard after a service which was attended by Mrs Sharon Young, children from the school, past and present, and many parents.
Sept 13	1979	Mrs Ros Jones supply teacher

Oct 11	1979	Flagpole removed due to dangerous condition.
Dec 17	1979	Christmas Dinner – Special guests – Mrs Barbara Hooper, Crossing Patrol Officer, Mrs P Griffith, NTA, Mrs Mary Toynton, Playgroup Supervisor.
Jan 28	1980	Mrs Christine Bryant became Caretaker in Charge.
Feb 15	1980	Mrs Pearce retired after 18 years service as caretaker and secretary. A small party was given together with a presentation.
Feb 25	1980	Mrs J Wilson, Secretary
April 18	1980	Mrs Ann Murphy left the school kitchen, Mrs Edith Jerrard temporary help in the kitchen.
April 19	1980	Films & Disco at Social evening held in Village Hall
May 1	1980	5 A side football at Breamore. Damerham and Rockbourne entered a combined team.
June	1980	Damerham and Rockbourne Schools receive letters to send to parents regarding the recent press article, to clarify the situation for the Autumn Term – Schools to remain as they are.
June 19	1980	School house was assessed for conversion into extra school accommodation.
July 15	1980	Major repairs to hot water system by R Smith who put right some poor work carried out by another firm. (Mrs Bryant has a lot of extra work).
Nov 5	1980	School being rewired.
Nov 14	1980	Interviews taking place for scale 1 juniors and scale 2 infants, to complete staff for amalgamated schools.
Dec 31	1980	The last entry in the log book for the Damerham School is as follows:- <i>I Rosemary Elizabeth Ann Harper relinquish my post as acting Headmistress of this school. From this day 31st December 1980 "Damerham Church of England Primary School" amalgamated with "Rockbourne Church of England Primary School" to become "The Western Downland Church of England Primary School"</i>

TODAY



Western Downland Church of England Primary School January 2000

Compiled by Michael Jerrard
With grateful thanks to Mrs Judy Sheppard, Headteacher of Western Downland School 1984 – 1999 for loaning the logbooks and to Tim Bolton-Carter for his help transferring to computer disk.