

## History from the pages of Ashington School Log books. (WSRO E9/12/1 & E9/12/2)

### Conduct/attendance/ attainment of the Children

The children appear cheerful and happy and I find they enjoy drill and singing very much. On the whole I think them docile and orderly considering the short time they have been at school. [Ashington 30/10/1872]

The Rev. J. Cole came in and gave back to the children who had made over 300 attendances, a halfpenny for each week the school had opened during the year; and to those who had attended over 400 times, 1 penny each week. [Ashington 30/11/1877]

Flower Show. Begun some needlework for West Grinstead Flower show in August. [Ashington 13/06/1879]

New Plan for Attendance. This week we have adopted a plan to improve attendance of the children as follows – every child who has been regular and early the whole week through receives a ticket. When four have been gained they are exchanged for a larger one or monthly – twelve of which entitle the owner to one shilling. [Ashington 12/10/1883]

New inducements. A farthing a week for tickets – 1/- to each child that passes the examination satisfactorily. [Ashington 08/02/1884]

Best attendance. Good attendances this week 92 present this afternoon, highest I have hitherto seen....[Ashington 21/04/1893]

Illegally Employed. 3 names of children 'illegally employed', one of the boy's under magistrates order. [Ashington 17/05/1898]

Punishment. Arthur Adsett (st 2) insubordinate to P.T., put him across the desk and gave him 5 or 6 smacks with the flat board. [Ashington 23/03/1898]

Father summoned. Received a letter from the attendance officer asking for a return of attendances for John Muggeridge as the committee had summoned his father [Ashington 26/05/1898]

Attendance Officer visited and informed me that Muggeridge has been fined 5/- for not sending his son John regularly to school. This same John has not made one attendance in eight weeks [Ashington 15/06/1898]

John Muggeridge turned up [Ashington 1898]

Excluded children. The village policeman and an officer of the NSPCC came and enquired for the Burchalls. He saw them and questioned them and examined the boys' underclothing and the girls' hair; he recommended refusing them attendance in justice to the rest of the scholars and their parents. Saw the acting manager and the stated the case. The Burchall's were dismissed before afternoon school [Ashington 08/03/1899]

Adsetts. Letter from the attendance committee re. Adsetts who have been refused admittance on account of their being neglected and dirty [Ashington 14/09/1899]

Full attendance. An unusual occurrence this week – all the children, 86 have been present but not at any one attendance, yet the average is only 75.4 [Ashington 26/06/1900]

Returns after two years. Charles Muggerridge returned to school after an absence of two years – since June 1901. He is 12 years old. [Ashington 14/01/1903]

Large attendance. Half holiday for having reached over 90% attendance for June [01/07/1910]

An excellent attendance for the week, 100%. 86 pupils. [Ashington 16/05/1913]

### **HMI Reports**

“Miss Smith is doing good work. The children answer fairly eagerly in the lower division. In the upper group there is a reluctance to reply to questions when put the whole class. Hymns are sung heartily, but the voices of the children are a little harsh. The tone of the school is good.” [Ashington May/June 1878]

The school is very well ordered by Miss Smith and in some respect I found it to have improved since my last visit, the weak point is the Reading which is wanting expression.

Writing and Spelling are very creditable, Arithmetic fairly good; English fair; Needlework good....[Ashington 30/11/1884]

Miss C.H. Smith is well qualified by tact and firmness for the management of a mixed school, as she maintains very good order without harshness or undue noise.

During the past year she has worked under disadvantages, as the school was closed by medical order for three weeks in the summer.....year ending 30/11/1886. [Ashington]

If the day of inspection could be anticipated with greater eagerness and delight the children and particularly the girls would, I feel sure, display more confidence and spirit. [Ashington 03/06/1912]

### **Festivals/ anniversaries and other absences**

Holiday given on Friday being May-day, the old custom of carrying garlands from house to house being observed in this village. [Ashington May 1874]

May Garlands. Several children asked for a holiday on Friday to gather flowers for their May-day garlands. [Ashington 30/04/1875]

Holiday given on Friday through a Club fete taking place in the village [Ashington 21/05/1875]

May Day. Half holiday given on Tuesday morning being May day and children went round village with garlands and flowers. [Ashington 04/05/1877]

Club. Holiday given on Friday on the occasion of a club fete in the village [Ashington 26/05/1877]

St. Andrew's day. Today being St. Andrew's day the children went to church. A half holiday in the afternoon. [Ashington 30/11/1877]

Ascension/ Club. Yesterday being Ascension day the children went to church at 11 o'clock. A half day holiday in the afternoon, a whole day holiday today on account of a Club fete in the village [Ashington 31/05/1878]

Club. A holiday today on account of a Club fete in the village [Ashington 29/05/1880]

Harvest. Broke up today for the Harvest holidays, attendance very poor indeed. [Ashington]

Washington Club. A half day holiday on Thursday afternoon on account of a Club at Washington....earlier holiday due to 'Bazaar at Storrington.' [Ashington 22/07/1882]

May Day. This morning being May Day so many children absent with garlands that the school was not opened...[Ashington 01/05/1885]

Garlands. Several children away today going round with their garlands – consequently the attendance has suffered, average being 61.9 [Ashington 01/05/1891]

Club. Holiday all day. Ashington Club Fest. [Ashington 25/05/1894]

Wet afternoon and popular wedding brought attendance down to 46. [Ashington 08/02/1899]

Maying. Some children absent this morning 'Maying.' [Ashington 01/05/1896]

Local Sale. A falling off in attendance this afternoon – local sale. [Ashington 23/09/1897]

Club Feast. All day holiday. [Ashington 25/05/1900]

Wedding. A very poor attendance in the afternoon on account of a fashionable wedding. Miss Ida Bridger and Mr Robert Gore; a fine afternoon and everybody at the wedding, children also....[Ashington 19/01/1901]

Point to Point race in the afternoon only 32 present. [Ashington 16/04/1902]

Club Feast. No school today. [Ashington 31/05/1907]

### **Time off School for farm work/ beating etc.**

The farmers seem to have made a general beginning of the harvest, consequently a great number of children asked for leave to remain from school on Wednesday, so we thought it better to break up on that day. [Ashington 05/08/1873]

Several names taken off the register for haymaking [Ashington 1875]

Haymaking. Several boys kept from school for haymaking – several girls kept to mind the little ones at home. [Ashington 30/06/1876]

Haymaking. Several of the older children are away from school owing to their parents working in the hay-fields. [Ashington 28/06/1978]

Gleaning. Commenced school after the Harvest Holidays – attendance rather poor – several children away gleaning. [Ashington 22/09/1879]

Hop Picking. Several of the children still away Hop-picking. [Ashington 27/09/1883]

Hop-picking and blackberrying. Attendance has not improved very much – the hop-picking is still keeping several children away – blackberry gathering too causes the absence of a few. [Ashington 24/09/1886]

Gathering fruit. Several of the elder children away to mind the babies while the mothers go gathering fruit. [Ashington 30/06/1891]

Gooseberries. Several children absent picking gooseberries [Ashington 28/06/1895]

The blackberry picking took place Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons this week. [Ashington 20/09/1918]

### **Illness, deaths, precautions, and neglect**

Attendance very poor because of measles. Pupil-teacher, 'still very ill.' [Ashington 06/03/1874]

Hooping Cough 'still prevalent.' [Ashington 11/12/1874]

Closed school today for an indefinite period all the children sick. [Ashington 02/02/1880]

Began school on Wednesday, attendance very poor, several children still sick. [Ashington 05/03/1880]

Hooping Cough. Several children absent through Hooping Cough. Consequently attendance very poor. [Ashington 16/04/1880]

Measles again. [Ashington 09/09/1887]

Chicken pox [Ashington 05/10/1888]

Neglected Child. Ellen Puttick came this morning. Her home is not clean and the children have been neglected. The parents before the magistrates for neglecting the children and home. Under these circumstances and the consent of the school inspector I sent her home. [Ashington 16/04/1894]

Whooping Cough – many children absent [Ashington 19 & 22/11/1897]

School closed 27<sup>th</sup> October 1899 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900 due to outbreak of Scarletina.

Measles developing in all directions. [Ashington 11/07/1902]

Death of a Child. Constance Annie Evans 12v yrs St 5 died while at play with a neighbour's child last night. [Ashington 07/07/1903]

Shocking attendance this afternoon, 22 children absent and not a single case of sickness [Ashington 08/07/1903]

Whooping Cough. Attendance poor. Three fresh cases of whooping cough, 13 children away through illness. [Ashington 27/02/1914]

By doctor's orders school closed for whooping cough. [Ashington 01/04/1914]

School re-opened today 68 children present. There are still 16 children suffering from whooping cough. [Ashington 20/04/1914]

Death of pupil. 18 boys and myself attended the funeral of Harry Saunders at 3 o'clock. [Ashington 26/11/1914]

### **Staff illness and staff issues**

Compelled to give up school for a time through failure of health. Mr. Cole kindly took the school in my place for the remainder of the week. Bishop Trower still too ill to give his usual attendance. [Ashington 22/01/1875]

A week's holiday given in consequence of my illness [Ashington 05/02/75]

Miss Peat has left through ill health [Ashington October 1877]

Dismissing Mistress. A committee meeting was called on Saturday last at which it was decided to lessen expenses of the school by dismissing A. Smith as assistant Art. 84 W keeping A. Etheridge PT for the Infants. A three month notice given to A. Smith on Wednesday. Ada Everidge began her work in the Infants' room on Monday and A. Smith will help with the Standards for the next three months at the end of which time a monitor will take her place [Ashington 01/01/1884]

Illness of Ada Etheridge. After the year's report (see above) it was thought better that Ada Etheridge should resign her duties as Pupil Teacher by giving a six month notice. The Doctor who attended her late illness said it would be better for her to have any lessons beyond those that came in the regular course of the day's work – therefore some have been given, as at the expiration of notice she intends leaving the Profession altogether. [Ashington 20/03/1885]

Military Service. I have been away from school today to be attested by the doctor and placed in my group ready to be called up for military service if necessary. [Ashington 11/11/1915]

## **Weather**

School closed on Friday owing to the weather being so very wet. [ Ashington 02/10/1874]

Attendance fell off considerably on Wednesday afternoon in fact the school was not opened either Thursday or Friday morning, the heavy fall of snow rendering it almost impossible for children to attend.[Ashington 26/02/1875]

School closed on Thursday and Friday – the heavy fall of snow rendering it almost impossible for the children to attend [Ashington 04/01/1876]

School not opened on Tuesday – children unable to attend owing to drenching rain. [Ashington 18/02/1876]

Weather very wet this week – in fact it was impossible to open school on Thursday as the children could not get here. [Ashington]

Yesterday morning owing to bad weather no register taken, the children leaving before the end of 2 hours.

Severity of the Weather. Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October children sent home early – no school at all on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October. [Ashington]

Great Snow. On account of the severity of the weather on Wednesday school not opened. [Ashington 23/12/1880]

The school has been closed for the last four days on account of the severity of the weather – the snow being so deep as to make it almost impossible for the children to attend. [Ashington 21/01/1881]

Monday and Tuesday the school was closed – the remainder of the week the weather has been a little better but attendance poor indeed. Average 27.8 [Ashington 28/01/1881]

The school closed again yesterday on account of bad weather. Several children absent through broken chilblains. [Ashington 01/02/1881]

Snow. Today owing to the fall of snow yesterday very few children came – consequently school not opened. [Ashington 08/12/1882]

Monday being such a wet day only eight children came – school not opened. [Ashington 27/09/1883]

...more closures due to weather...

....the children who had bought their dinners were allowed to wait until the weather cleared a little before going home. [Ashington 29/02/1884]

Closed for snow [Ashington 07/03/1890]

Closed for rain [Ashington 21/03/1890]

Snow (by the fire). Snow on the ground, very few children, put them in the back room and left them to amuse themselves by reading to each other in front of the fire...[Ashington 01/02/1895]

Snow. A considerable depth of snow on the ground this morning; only 20 children. Register not marked. [Ashington 03/03/1909]

### **Further schooling/ work**

Girls 'withdrawn to go into service.'

Workhouse. Harriet, Kate and Jane Clements left this week – gone to the Union. [Ashington 09/04/1880]

### **Notable Personages**

Rector, death of. The village today experienced a sad loss in the death of the rector, the Right Rev. Bishop Trower. [Ashington 26/10/1977]

Rector, funeral. A half holiday on Monday afternoon in order that the children might attend the Rector's funeral. [Ashington]

### **Religion/ Temperance**

Wesleyan Chapel. Afternoon [attendance] 48...partly owing to a free tea for women and children given at the Wesleyan Chapel. [Ashington]

Football. The rector started the children with a football. [Ashington 27/10/1902]

### **Royal/ Imperial**

Ladysmith. Rev. C. A. Heurtley visited at 9 a.m., and gave a whole holiday in celebration of the Relief of Ladysmith. [Ashington 02/03/1900]

Empire Day. Secular subjects 9 – 11. At 11.45 formed a hollow square in the yard, the Union Jack was hoisted and saluted. Flag of Britain sung & c. Holiday in the afternoon. [Ashington 24/05/1907]

King's birthday. Hoisted Union Jack in the morning and children saluted – King's official birthday. [Ashington 28/06/1907]

Half-day holiday for Emire Day. [02/05/1908]

Death of King. No school today. Memorial service to King Edward VII at 11am. [Ashington 20/05/1910]

### **Physical Education/ health**

Wands came today, dumb-bells Monday but as yet at a stand still as far as using them goes, as the model course of physical exercises has got lost. [Ashington 10/02/1904]

Measurements. Commenced measuring the height and chest expansion of the children as per instructions from the Education Committee. [Ashington 11/07/1906]

Commenced weighing the children this morning. [Ashington 23/10/1906]

Medical Inspection. Medical inspection in the afternoon of six and twelve year old children by Dr. Bostock of Horsham and another medical man. The inspection was over by 2.15pm. [Ashington 28/05/1908]

Eye test. Tested sight in group 1 this afternoon. Annie Acres could only see the largest letters on the cards at a distance of six metres. [Ashington 10/11/1908]

### **Modern innovation/ newsworthy/ sensational events**

School children photographed by D. C. Doran [Ashington 28/09/1906]

Indecent behaviour. This morning I, with three children, have gone to Steyning as witnesses in the case of a man charged with indecent behaviour in front of the school in the dinner hour. [Ashington 22/07/1915]