

The History of the
East Anglian
School for Deaf
and Blind Children

Maurice Joel

The History of the East Anglian School for
Deaf and Blind Children

Editors: Fred & Dee Riley

First publication in Great Britain 2013

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**This book is dedicated to my brother Geoffrey,
a pupil at this school from 1944 to 1955**

Maurice Joel

Preface

You may or may not be aware that the East Anglian School closed its gates for the last time in July 1985. It lay neglected for five years much to the annoyance of the local people. Vandals repeatedly set fire to bits and pieces and eventually the air raid shelters had to be filled in for safety reasons. After these five years it was decided that the school would be demolished and replaced by a housing estate. The estate's principal road adopted the name of the school and became "The East Anglian Way".

There is the wonderful tale about the sycamore trees which run from behind the Headmasters house, past St Mary's Roman Catholic school then round the bend to the children's playground (which is at the site of the old swimming pool and the infants paddling pool and near to where the tennis court stood). The school myth said that while the sycamore trees flourished so would the school. It's a charming story but alas the school closed.

The first building to go up on East Anglian Way was the Doctors Surgery, which happens to be my doctors'. Every time I visit the doctor, memories of my brother Geoffrey, who was a pupil at the school for eleven years, come flooding back. I still think I am sitting behind the Headmaster's House and not the private residence it is now!

I recently had the great pleasure and privilege of unveiling a blue plaque dedicated to the East Anglian School, which stood on this site for seventy-three years.

I have endeavoured to faithfully record the school's history in this book and I should like to record my thanks to the following people for the help and support they have given me.

Acknowledgements

Mr Greg Henderson for his generous donation towards the cost of this book.

Mr Norman Finbow for all his help and encouragement.

Fred and Dee Riley have been marvellous and kept me going in more ways than one!!

Mr Ted Herbert who runs the E.A.S. school reunions for his help and support.

Anne Edwards, Editor of the Great Yarmouth Mercury.

Rosemary Dixon, Senior Librarian, Archant Newspapers

Freda Wilkins-Jones, Senior Archivist, Norfolk Records Office.

Carl Boulton for his photographs of the Blue Plaque ceremony.

Peter Jones for his 1920 photographs of the school.

Joan Lobban for her poem "A Teaching Haven".

Sue and Heather from the Veritas Book Shop, Gorleston.

To all the people who gave me photos, help with different ideas, press cuttings etc. I sincerely thank each and every one of you. I hope you will forgive me for not mentioning you all personally. There really were too many to mention.

Any errors in the E.A.S. story are mine and mine alone. There were some large blanks with no names and/or dates for photos but to the best of my ability I have tried to be as accurate as possible.

Thank you all

Maurice

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Chapter 1

The School's Conception

EAST ANGLIAN EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (BLIND & DEAF CHILDREN) ACT, 1893

PROPOSALS FOR THE BETTER EDUCATION

OF

THE BLIND AND DEAF

AND FOR AN

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL

FOR

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN

FINAL REPORT and RECOMMENDATIONS of the CONFERENCE
of EAST ANGLIAN EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

Addressed to the following Eleven Local Education Authorities

The City of Norwich
The County Borough of
Ipswich and Great Yarmouth.

The Boroughs of Bury St.
Edmunds, Lowestoft
and Kings Lynn.

The County Councils of
Cambridge, Isle of
Ely, Norfolk, East Suffolk and
West Suffolk.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

APPOINTED IN 1904

BURY ST EDMUND'S
Mr. J. H. WAKEFIELD

Norfolk -
Mr. A. G. COPEMAN
Miss DELF
Mr. J. SANCROFT HOLMES

CAMBRIDGESHIRE -
Mr E. O. FORDHAM

NORWICH -
Dr. E. E. BLYTH
Mr. J. F. HENDERSON
Dr. G. F. ODHAMS
Mr. GEO. WHITE

ISLE OF ELY -
Mr. A. HALL
Mr. A. J. PELL

IPSWICH -
Mr. J. HEPBURN HUME Rev.

EAST SUFFOLK -
C. J. STEWARD

LOWESTOFT -
Mr. HENRY JEFFERIES

WEST SUFFOLK -
THE EDUCATION SECRETARY

KING'S LYNN -
No Member attended

GREAT YARMOUTH -
Rev. W. T. GOODRICH
Mr. E.W. WORLLEDGE

Also Representatives of the Education Authorities of Essex and of the Borough of Cambridge, who, however, afterwards withdrew.

In 1904, four distinguished gentleman sat down and decided that a special school for Blind and Deaf Children was needed in East Anglia. The proposal put forward by Mr A Keane from Cambridge, Mr Jeffries of Lowestoft, Mr Copeman of Norfolk and their clerk, Mr Holme of Norwich, was to change the lives of hundreds of children for over seventy years.

The following year, the first conference was held between representatives of the Education Authorities of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk to provide an institution for the

maintenance and education of blind and deaf children in East Anglia.

As a result of this conference a joint authority was formed of East Anglia, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Isle of Ely, Norfolk, Norwich, Essex, and Great Yarmouth.

The following are extracts from the report of that conference:

THE CONFERENCE BEGS TO REPORT AS FOLLOWS: -

Appointment of this Conference

It will be remembered that this Conference was first called together in the year 1904, and that a Preliminary Report was sent to all the East Anglian Local Educational Authorities in January 1905. This Report indicated generally what was needed, and stated as accurately as was then possible the amount of the necessary expenditure. It was favourably received by the Local Authorities to which this Report was addressed, and in some cases the necessary funds were at once voted. Since this Conference was first called the Education Authorities for the County of Essex and Borough of Cambridge have withdrawn, preferring to make their own arrangements, but the Conference believe that they have the support of all the other eleven East Anglian Local Education Authorities.

Existing Conditions

On the passing of the Act of 1893 it became the statutory duty of School Boards and District Councils, and since the Act of 1902, it has become the duty of Education Committees, to provide suitable teaching for all Blind and Deaf Children under sixteen years of age. In East Anglia there have been Day Classes for the Blind of Norwich and Yarmouth, while the Deaf have been sent to Institutions in the Midlands. The arrangements can only be regarded as a temporary character in force pending the building of a suitable Institution. Day Schools are not satisfactory for the

children as they require for their proper mental and moral development skilled attention for the whole day, and it is impossible even for the most conscientious and intelligent working-class parents to acquire the necessary special knowledge for dealing with these afflicted children. Moreover, the system of boarding out children from a distance in the neighbourhood of Day School for the Blind is not always very satisfactory, even though the very greatest care is exercised in choosing suitable foster parents.

The Board of Education have now condemned the Day Classes at Norwich and Yarmouth, and the Conference are not prepared to dispute their judgement. The various Institutions in England for the Instruction of the Blind are quite full.

There are now very few vacant places in any Institutions in England for the Instruction of Deaf Children, and it is becoming difficult to find places for East Anglian Deaf Children in the various Institutions in the Midlands to which they have hitherto been sent. Further, the conveyance of these children to places in Birmingham or Doncaster is a source of considerable expense and trouble, and is often disliked by the parents. Moreover, the Education Committee are not able to supervise their education in the careful way, which is especially necessary in the case of these children.

East Anglia is the only part of England which, has not up to the present, provided a Boarding Institution either for Blind or for Deaf Children.

Putting aside for the moment the natural feelings of compassion which all classes of the community feel for these afflicted children, it should be borne in mind that in the long run it pays the ratepayer to educate them well, since without proper education a large proportion of them will inevitably drift into the

Workhouse and be a charge to the Poor Rate for the greater part of their lives. These children are seldom mentally defective, although if they are left entirely with any but the most thoughtful parents they are only too apt to be treated as such. If properly trained, the Deaf make extremely good workman and the Blind are always able to earn something towards their own maintenance.

The number of Blind and Deaf Children chargeable to each Local Education Authority varies considerably from time to time. The following figures were furnished to us in March 1906: -

	Blind	Deaf
Bury St Edmund's	--	--
Cambridgeshire	3	1
Isle of Ely	2	3
Ipswich	5	8
Lowestoft	1	1
King's Lynn	2	2
Norfolk	8	17
Norwich	19	20
East Suffolk	5	11
West Suffolk	6	2
Great Yarmouth	5	5

It is understood that the experience of the Board of Education leads them generally to expect Blind Children to be 1 per 16,000 of the population, and Deaf Children to be 1 per 8,000 of the population. On this estimate the number of Blind Children in the area of the eleven Authorities would be 62, and the Deaf Children would be 124. There is therefore no reason to expect that the number of Blind and Deaf Children reported in March 1906 will diminish. Indeed, East Anglians have reason to congratulate themselves that the numbers are now so few. It is possible that some cases have escaped notice.

Proposed Institution

The Conference recommend that a residential Institution for the Blind and Deaf should be built in East Anglia; they propose to bring the Blind and Deaf Children together in one Institution. It is true that the Class Rooms, Teachers, and methods of instruction of Blind and Deaf Children respectively must be quite distinct, but the cost of board and lodging and of conducting children to and fro will be less for one large Institution both of Blind and Deaf Children than it would be for two smaller Institutions.

The Conference is of the opinion that the Cottage Home plan is by far the best plan for such an Institution. They recommend that an Institution should be planned on these lines to hold 150 Blind and Deaf Children. This Institution will include School Rooms and also six Cottage Homes, each holding 25 children. For the present it should be sufficient to build five of these Cottage Homes; the sixth can be added as soon as it is required.

The Conference has been at considerable pains to arrive at a satisfactory estimate of the cost of such an Institution. They have obtained plans of similar Institutions, and asked two or three Architects, accustomed to Educational Work, what they expect to be the cost of such a building. They were of the opinion that the cost would be from £6,000 to £8,000; they are further of the opinion that a capital expenditure of £10,000 will cover the cost of the purchase of the site, legal expenses, furniture and fittings as well as the buildings themselves, and will also be sufficient to maintain the Institution for the first few months until the first payments, in respect of the maintenance of children, become due.

The Beginning

In 1909, Great Yarmouth County Borough Council offered to provide a site at Gorleston-on-Sea, which was readily accepted by the Conference of Education Authorities. The site at 'Spitlings Hill', Church Road is the highest point in the Borough, named after an estate owned by Sir John Fastolf and later by Magdalen College, Oxford.



The school was built on the 17-acre site at a cost of £8,940 and was completed in 1912. The grounds also included recreational areas and sports fields.



Lord Leicester, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk formally opened the East Anglian School for Blind and Deaf Children at Gorleston-on-Sea on the 9th May 1912.





Aerial view of completed school

1912 was an eventful year in more ways than one. Other than the school opening, there was a coal strike a month before, and the 'RMS Titanic' sank with the loss of 1503 lives, some of them from the East Anglia area.

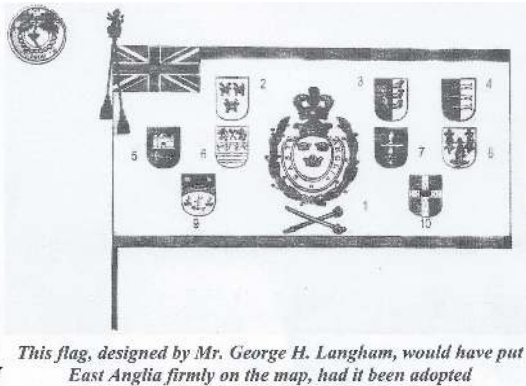
Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst, of the suffragette movement, was imprisoned, explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Salvation Army founder General William Booth died, and the first English Channel air crossing by a woman pilot, Harriet Quimby, was also achieved.

On the 3rd of March, B.C. Hucks flew 'Firefly' over Gorleston, the first recorded aeroplane over Norfolk. Also, 1,000 people were made homeless in East Anglia by flooding! Great Yarmouth was isolated for many days.

East Anglian Flag

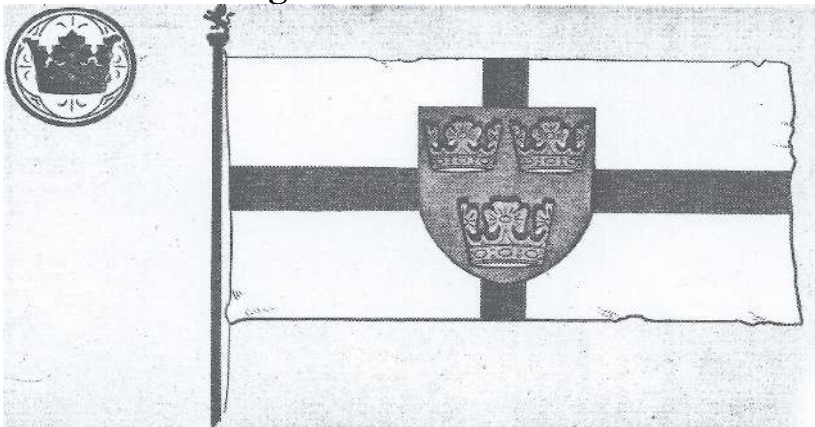
Shields on Flag: -

1. King Edmund
2. Bury St. Edmunds
3. Ipswich
4. Great Yarmouth
5. Norwich
6. Chelmsford
7. Colchester
8. King's Lynn
9. Cambridge
10. Cambridge University



St Edmund who was born in East Anglia and not St George who was born in Palestine may have been a more appropriate patron saint for England. If this had been the case we would now be celebrating St Edmund's Day and flying his flag. Like the East Anglian Flag it was not to be. The shield on St Edmund's Flag was actually incorporated in the school blazer badge.

St Edmund's Flag



Chapter 2

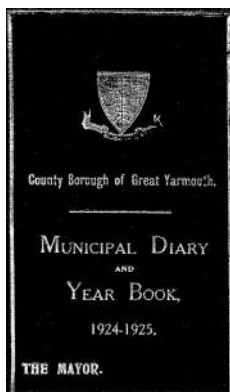
The Early Years

1912 to 1939

The Education Authorities of East Anglia, on a site given by the Great Yarmouth Corporation, jointly erected this Institution, situated at Gorleston. The first meeting of the Board of Governors took place on Monday 10th June 1912 and it was recorded that the Institution had a total of 107 children in residence. A body of 125 Representative Governors was to manage the Institution.

Education Authority	Children 1912	Agreed Complement
Norfolk	31	45
Norwich	27	35
East Suffolk	14	10
Essex	13	35
Cambridgeshire	4	4
Isle of Ely	3	5
Great Yarmouth	11	12
Lowestoft	4	4
Total	107	150

The Institution provided accommodation for 150 blind and deaf children, and the eight Authorities, which are parties to the agreement, have guaranteed places in the above proportions.



By Friday 7th February 1913, the number of pupils had risen to 133 and increased to 160 in 1929, and reaching 163 the following year.

From the Great Yarmouth Municipal Diary and Year Book 1924/25

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL
(for Deaf and Partially Sighted Children)

Church Road,
Gorleston-on-Sea.

CLOTHING TO BE SUPPLIED TO CHILDREN
ON ADMISSION.

ALL BOYS.

- 1 overcoat, navy gaberdine with detachable fleece lining.
- 1 cap, navy.
- 2 prs. black shoes.
- 1 pr. slippers, bedroom.
- 3 shirts, grey flannel, collar attached.
- 3 suits pyjamas, striped winseyett.
- 3 prs. grey stockings
- 3 vests, 3 prs. trunks.
- 6 handkerchiefs
- 1 hair brush
- 1 comb
- 1 tooth brush
- 1 dressing gown if possible

BOYS OVER 10 YEARS OLD

- 1 grey suit, flannel
- 2 prs. grey flannel knickers
- 2 grey pullovers with sleeves

BOYS UNDER 10 YEARS OLD

- 1 corduroy lumberjacket, green
- 2 prs. corduroy knickers, brown
- 1 dark grey suit (flannel)

ALL GIRLS

- 1 black velour hat
- 1 overcoat, bottle green gaberdine with detachable hood
- 2 gym tunics, bottle green serge.
- 2 blouses, cream, short sleeves
- 2 green jerseys, collars attached. Obtainable at Blind Institution Norwich.
- 3 prs. knickers bottle green
- 3 prs. $\frac{3}{4}$ grey socks
- 2 liberty bodices
- 3 pinafores
- 3 vests
- 2 prs. shoes
- 1 pr. slippers, bedroom
- 1 dressing gown, if possible
- 3 nightdresses wynseyett or
- 3 suits pyjamas
- 1 pr. gloves
- 6 handkerchiefs
- 1 hair brush
- 1 comb
- 1 tooth brush

GIRLS UNDER 10 YEARS OLD

- 3 prs. grey socks.

Clothing supplied to pupils on joining the School



School's Annual Seaside Trip
A bus mans holiday?



Deaf children gardening with
Mr Harry Websdale



These two photographs show the School
Uniforms of the 1920's



————— NORWICH —————
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

—————
**Scale of Salaries for
Teachers in Elementary Schools.**
—————

Approved by the Education Committee, June 10th, 1918.

Adopted by the City Council, June 18th.

To come into operation from April 1st, 1918.

D. O. HOLME,

Organiser of Elementary Education.

HEAD TEACHERS.

Av. ATTENDANCE.	SCALE.		MAXIMUM SALARIES.	
	GRADE.		MASTERS.	MISTRESSES.
Over 325 ...	...	I.	£340	£260
150-325 ...	...	II.	£285	£215
Under 150 ...	...	III.	£240	£190

The Average Attendance shall be the average for the three years previous to appointment and shall not be altered during the tenure of office of that Head Teacher unless an extension of accommodation takes place.

The Grade of a new school will be fixed by the Committee, who will reconsider it after three years.

Subsequent re-grading will take place as a rule only on a change of Head Teacher.

- (a) Every class teacher on appointment to a Headship shall receive at once an increase of £10 if appointed to a Grade III. School, and £20 if appointed to a Grade II. School, provided that the amount thus reached do not exceed the maximum for the school.
- (b) Any promotion within the scale for Head Teachers from one grade to another shall involve an immediate increase of £10.

CLASS TEACHERS.

Including those in Special Schools.

	GRADE.	MEN.	WOMEN.
Uncertificated ...	A.	£65—£85	£65—£85
Certificated ...	B.	£100—£210	£90—£160

The Committee will review the salaries of Certificated Teachers at the above points in the scale and unless they consider the work of the Teacher unsatisfactory will grant two more increases of £10 each triennially so that the ultimate maxima will be £230 and £180 respectively.

DOMESTIC SUBJECTS TEACHERS.

- (1) Superintending Teacher £130—£190
- (2) Other Teachers £100—£180 (as for Class Teachers).

No teacher will be eligible for appointment by the Committee who does not hold a Certificate recognised by the Board of Education (Code. Schedule III. 20 (a) and (c).

No teacher will be eligible for the post of Superintending Teacher who does not hold the full diploma Schedule III. 20 (a), (c), and (d).

MANUAL INSTRUCTORS.

Heads of Centres accommodating 40 boys, £180—£210 thence to £230 (as for Class Teachers).

Heads of Centres accommodating 20 boys, £150—£180.

Assistant Instructors—qualified for Headships of Centres, £100—£150.

If a Manual Instructor holds a Board of Education Certificate in addition to his Qualifications in Manual Work he will receive a salary not less than a Certificated Teacher of similar years of service.

- (1) Subject to a resolution of the Committee and to the Scale, the salaries will be increased by annual increments of £5 to £130 (men), and £120 (women), and thereafter by £10 till the above maxima are reached (the last two increments being triennial).
Annual Increments will not be withheld except in the case of a teacher whose service has been characterised by definite default or wilful neglect.
- (2) As a rule, salaries will not be increased unless at least one year's service has been given. This shall not apply to the case of a Head Teacher who has been promoted during the year.
- (3) The salaries of all teachers as a rule will commence at the minimum sum named in the above Scales.
- (4) Within the limits of the Scale, the Committee may modify its application on the appointment of a teacher, or at any other time.
- (5) Revision of Salaries according to Scale will, as a rule, be considered in the month of March, and any increase will take effect from the 1st of April unless otherwise ordered.
- (6) Each year of training up to three will count for a year of service in the application of the Scale.
- (7) In the case of new appointments past service under other Authorities may be taken into account in fixing the commencing salary.
- (8) If any increase of salary according to Scale is not given in any one year, and the teacher's work in the next year is considered satisfactory, the position of the teacher on the Scale shall be restored.
- (9) Uncertificated Teachers will be appointed subject to the condition that they qualify as Certificated Teachers within four years of their appointment.

Social Life of the School – Early Days

Although the problems of the deaf and blind children were very different it was found that they were able to mix freely with each other. There were seven homes, three for boys, three for girls who were grouped according to age and ability. The other home was for infants and babies. This home was converted, when needed, into an isolation block during epidemics, as it stood apart from the other homes.

Each home had its own Homemother, a maid and a resident teacher. They also had their own kitchen, dining room, play room, dormitory and cloakroom and complete with its own flower garden. In the playroom there were little chairs and tables, there was a piano and sometimes a gramophone and wireless loudspeaker, used for broadcast lessons (teaching) and amusement. Also in the playroom was a cinema screen where silent films were shown to the deaf children every Saturday evening in the winter

As in all the homes, the children had their own locker where they kept their personal possessions including coats, hats, and outdoor and indoor shoes. In those days the dormitories had between twenty and thirty beds. At the end of the dormitory were the toilets and two showers; the washbasin taps were centrally controlled to avoid waste. Outside in the grounds was a very large black tank, standing very high on a wooden platform to gather rainwater that provided the school with a supply of “soft water”!

For indoor amusement there were all kinds of games, and many were adapted by the masters for the blind pupils, for example, playing cards had distinguishing marks in Braille, draught boards had raised sets of squares, and dominoes raised dots so the deaf and blind children could play together. It was found that in a lot of the games, the blind could play more skilfully than the deaf! They had an excellent library; even some copies of current

periodicals were printed in Braille. Outdoor activities were many, playing fields with swings, seesaws, ladders and a climbing tower and a cartwheel, a switchback and a sand pit for the juniors.

The school had troops of Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and Brownies who joined in all the district activities. The children were taken out as often as possible and the senior children were allowed to go into the town in groups unsupervised. An Annual Picnic was arranged at the seaside. The children exhibited in local events such as flower shows, handicraft displays and gymnastics. The school choir competed in music festivals etc. In this way the children were brought into contact with normal children and helped to overcome the difficulties of their physical handicaps. This led to a happy, carefree atmosphere, which was felt at once by everyone who entered the school.



Homemothers Outing to Beccles – a rare treat!

Homemothers only had one free afternoon a month and then, only if none of the pupils were ill. This shows how dedicated they were.



Having Fun at a Carnival or Fete?

Medical Matters

It was important for the school to have guidelines (quoted below), which the Medical Staff could follow in the event of illnesses.

"All minor cases (childhood illnesses) to be treated at the Hospital at the Institution, excepting scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric (typhoid) fever which are notified compulsorily and are eligible for treatment at the Great Yarmouth Isolation Hospital. Other infectious diseases to be treated in the Hospital at the Institution, unless, without danger to others, they can be removed e.g. a child might by chance be allowed to come from a house in which some of the inmates were suffering from mumps. If the child developed mumps soon after admission, I think it would be the wisest course to return the child to the infected house, rather than run the risk of spreading the disease among the pupils at the Institution. (100 cases of measles at Marlborough School show

how easily infectious diseases may spread once they gain admission to a school).

Urgent cases such as appendicitis or cerebral complications of ear diseases necessitating serious operations should be notified to the Authority and House Committee, and to the parents without delay and the child removed to the Great Yarmouth General Hospital, or to the General Hospital of the District to which the child belongs, with the consent of the parents if time permits. Children suffering from chronic incurable diseases were to be removed from the school at the discretion of the Medical Officer."

Medical guidelines in action

Friday 13th September 1929 – The Medical Officer reported that Bessie Baldwin from the Norwich Authority, evidently a 'carrier' with discharging ears, had been swabbed. The swab had proved to be positive and was now being tested for virulence. In the event of the swab proving virulent, the child would be excluded from the School.



Sister Mary
Sister Flegg
Mr Snowdon
(left to right)



Not All Work

I heard of a very nice tale about the Medical Officer at the time, who used to come in almost daily, whether the children were ill or not. We think it was for a sit down and for a cup of tea and a bun with Matron Bevan (pictured).

East Anglian School Headmasters

During the School's 73 years history there were six Headmasters. Although this is the beginning of the book I thought it a good place to list them. Despite extensive research I could find very little information about the first two Headmasters apart from their names.

Mr J.S.Barker	(1912 - 1922)
Octavius Henry Illingworth	(1922 - 1928)
Edward Evans	(1928 - 1943)
Reginald Gough	(1943 - 1953)
Spencer Howard	(1953 - 1968)
Peter B. Johnstone	(1968 - 1985)

Details of the last four Headmasters appear at the appropriate place in the school's history.

The Children's Fund.



The Children's Fund was originated by the Headmaster and Teaching Staff for the purpose of introducing into the lives of the sightless and soundless children resident within the School a series of pleasures and brightening influences which could not be provided from the ordinary funds of the Governors.

The School seeks to accomplish for its 160 charges the best and highest results in every department of its work—intellectual and otherwise. For the intellectual part the Governors have made excellent provision, but for those parts on which the Governors cannot spend public funds, the Headmaster and Teachers confidently rely on the co-operation of friends to enable them to secure for this colony of children whose lives, spite of all we can do for betterment, must for ever remain destitute of a vast number of pleasures which belong naturally to sighted and hearing persons.

Our Blind and Deaf, through the Children's Fund, have found many true friends.

To all those who have helped us in our work for the children—Our Thanks.

O. HY. ILLINGWORTH,

Headmaster.

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL
For Blind and Deaf Children,
GORLESTON-ON-SEA.

Programme of
CONCERT

BY
PUPILS & STAFF

IN AID OF

The Children's Sports Fund,
TUESDAY, 9th Dec. 1924,
At **7.30** p.m.

JOHN BUCKLE (J. A. LANE AND A. C. J. BUCKLE), PRINTER, GT. YARMOUTH.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Chorus - "Carol" - Choir
2. Semi-Chorus "Juggling Along" - Boys
3. Recitation "The Mouse" Tommy Cornwall
4. Part Song "I would that M. Love" - Choir
5. Dance - "French Reel" Junior Deaf Girls
6. Chorus "Cherry Ripe" - Choir
7. Solo "Irish Song" Hilda Gullant
8. Recitation "Six Blind Men" Florrie Osborne
9. Dance - "Black Nag" - Deaf Girls
10. Carol - "Noel" - Choir
11. Part Song "Greeting" - Six Girls
12. Folk Song "Bingo" - Choir
13. Recitation "Shooting of Dan McGrew" Ernest Fisher
14. Dance - "Gathering Leased" Deaf Girls
15. Semi-Chorus "Three Fishers" - Choir
16. Chorus - "Carol" - Choir
17. Dance - "Ruffy Turty" Deaf Girls

INTERVAL

During which Wireless Items will be given.

PART II.

Trial Scene from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice,
By the Blind Pupils.

CHARACTERS:

Duke of Venice	Peddy Smith
Antonio	William Gorman
Shylock	Ernest Fisher
Portia	Dora Wescott
Bassanio	Grace Hill
Gratiano	Frank Barber
Nerissa	Hilda Fowler
Clerk	Florrie Osborne
Salerio	John Hall

Sketch by The Staff, entitled:—

"THE LADIES' WORKING PARTY"

GOD SAVE THE KING.



Edward Evans

Mr Evans became Headmaster in 1928. He succeeded Octavius Henry Illingworth who had been Headmaster for six years.

As I go through the story it becomes clear Edward Evans was a man of great vision and enterprise, which he displayed regarding the way the school was run during his term as headmaster.

He pursued his convictions regarding the deaf and blind throughout his life and was instrumental in influencing government reforms regarding the disabled when he became the M.P. for Lowestoft in 1945.



Mr Kenneth Luck

Mr Luck worked for 10 years at the East Anglian School as a Woodwork Instructor. He was also a well-known local artist being a member of the Yarmouth and Gorleston Art Society, his pictures being exhibited at the Tolhouse, White Lion Hotel, Gorleston and in Liverpool.

He spent much of his time sketching along Gorleston Quays and the surrounding countryside. His paintings are still in demand today. He died on the 18th January 1936 at his home in Trafalgar Road West, Gorleston after a short illness. He was 62 years old.

School Sports Day mid-1930's

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL

YESTERDAY'S SPORTS

Yesterday afternoon the annual sports of the East Anglian Blind and Deaf School were held on Gorleston Recreation Ground. There were nearly a thousand entries, but most of the heats had been previously decided. Mr. Edward Evans, the headmaster, had the assistance of Mr. L. Bayliss as secretary. The judges were Mr. S. Ward, Mrs. Daniels, and Miss Tilley; starters, Mr. R. G. H. Gough and Mr. J. W. Parrant; handicappers, Miss D. A. Sunley and Mr. A. S. Howard; timekeeper, Mr. A. T. Fegg.

RESULTS

Boys, 80 yards—1 D. Gooch, 2 F. Harbord, 3 D. Mizan; time 11 1-5secs.

Totally blind, 50 yards, running to sound or a bugle—1 A. Oulssod, 2 L. Overall, 3 M. Putter.

Girls, 60 yards—1 J. Gooch, 2 E. Gurney, 3 M. Easton; time 9secs.

Deaf infants, 50 yards—1 R. MacNally, 2 J. Howling, 3 J. Woodlorton; time 9 4-5 secs.

Boys, 230 yards—1 R. Barnard and T. Harrauld, 2 L. Reynolds; time 43 3-5secs.

Junior blind skipping race—1 E. Gurney, 2 D. Francis, 3 I. Neale.

Deaf infants' hoop race—1 F. Bettis, 2 G. Shacter, 3 A. Reynolds.

Boys, potato race—1 D. Gooch, 2 A. Giles, 3 D. Mizan.

Girls, fancy skipping display—1 G. Ransome, 2 S. Thorpe, 3 D. Chennery.

Boys, high jump—1 L. Reynolds 4ft. 4in., 2 I. Woodrow, 3 G. Franklin.

Senior blind skipping display—1 L. Cork, 2 R. Sorrell, 3 G. Ling.

Boys, 100 yards—1 L. Reynolds, 2 R. Barnard, 3 C. Franklin; time 12 3-5secs.

Senior girls, 80 yards—1 J. Bunn, 2 L. Cork, 3 L. Hyams; time 9 4-5secs.

Deaf infants, potato race—1 A. Reynolds, 2 J. Humphreys, 3 F. Bettis.

Boys, obstacle race—1 V. Games, 2 W. Davidson, 3 R. Lister.

Blind whistle hunt—1 H. Frost, 2 A. Hayes, 3 M. Walton.

Boys, three-legged race—1 Potter and Lovick, 2 Hart and Roberts, 3 Larwood and Davidson; girls—1 Vogt and Bunn, 3 Fritchard and Ransome, 3 Ling and O'Connell.

Boys, relay—1 M. Roberts, A. Filby, A. Grix, R. Crisp, 2 Wright, Larwood, Abbotts, W. Filby.

Girls, sack race—1 R. Welton, 2 D. Phillips, 3 G. Ransome.

Girls, egg and spoon race—1 J. Bunn, 2 L. Hyams, 3 M. Shaw.

Boys, long jump—1 H. Dore (16ft.), 2 A. Grix, 3 R. Lister; totally blind—1 P. Mordimer (12ft.), 2 L. Overall, 3 H. Frost.

Girls, junior high jump—1 M. Easton (3ft. 6in.), 2 I. Edwards.

Boys, hurdles, 80 yards—1 R. Barnard, 2 C. Franklin, 3 J. Thomas; time 12secs.

Tug-of-war, boys—Deaf team beat blind team.

Long jump, girls—1 J. Bunn (12ft.), 2 A. Vogt, 3 C. Fritchard.

Boat race (blind)—1 Lawrence's team.

Blind infants, skipping endurance display—1 I. Howe, 2 B. Ives, 3 P. Sharpe.

Blind infants, horse race—1 F. Savage and B. Ives, 2 L. Gurney and G. Green.

Blind infants, crawling race—1 D. Gooling, 2 G. Green.

Senior girls, high jump—1 J. Bunn (4ft.), 2 A. Vogt, 3 L. Cork.

Tug-of-war, girls—Deaf team beat blind team.

Totally blind, sack race—1 G. Wright, 2 I. Neale, 3 A. Hayes.

Tilting the bucket, boys—1 R. Lister and H. Hart, 2 E. Dore and W. Clarke, 3 A. Filby and A. Thomas.

Consolation event—1 T. Sangster, 2 W. Atter.

The children marched back to the school hall for the sports tea, provided by the matron and staff, following which the prizes were distributed by the Vicar of Gorleston (the Rev. D. T. Dick). The Burner Cup for boys went to R. Barnard, L. Reynolds being runner-up, and the Tiltingworth cup to Joyce Bunn, the runner-up being A. Vogt.

The school breaks up for the holidays on July 27th, until September 10th.

Author's Note

I noticed Edna Gurney's name mentioned several times amongst the contestants on this Sports Day. Edna started at the school in 1931. During the War, after Edna had left the school, she became a Land Army Girl. At the end of the war she returned to the school when it re-opened in 1946 and eventually became a Homemother, retiring in 1983 after 38 years service.



Harry Websdale (pictured 1961)
Loyal Member of Staff.

Harry Websdale's letter of appointment. He stayed until his retirement in 1971. He served at the school for 42 years.

EAST ANGLIAN INSTITUTION FOR BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

JOHN BEATTIE,
Clerk of the Governors.

Telephone No. 1401.
Extension 65.

OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE GOVERNORS,
41, ST. GILES STREET,
NORWICH.

15th. July 1929.....192

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you that, at the last meeting of the House Committee, you were appointed a full time Officer, to act as Instructor in Gardening and General Handyman, under the direction of the Head Master, at a salary of £130. 0. 0 per annum; the appointment to date from the commencement of the next term and to be terminable by one month's notice, in writing, to be given on either side, to expire on any date.

Faithfully yours,

Clerk of the
Governors.

Mr.H. Websdale,

East Anglian School

Gorleston-on-Sea.

The Sunday Morning 'Crocodile' Walk

The children would walk all the way to the Cliffs and back, singing out loud, smiling and laughing all the time. The hands of the blind, resting on the shoulders of the deaf, to guide them along. The locals would stand at their gates and as the children passed they would give them bags of sweets and cakes. The children loved this and a common bond grew between the school and the local people. They had adopted the school and they took pride in helping the children in any way they could.



Mr Hubbard's Boot making Class 1930's



In these classes, children's boots and shoes were checked and repaired as required

The 'Old' Swimming Pool



I was given a picture of the swimming pool dated 1931, which consisted of a giant canvas, inflated sort of tyre, which the school pupils made great use of. However it didn't suit Mr.

Evans the new headmaster, he thought a much better quality swimming pool was required. In the summer during warm spells, algae grew on the top of the water and Mr Evans didn't think this was satisfactory. Within a year he had collected £800 for a brand new swimming pool, which was built in 1936 replacing the previous one.

The 'New' Swimming Pool



An altogether grander affair and much appreciated by both the pupils and local children.

Extract from the Yarmouth Mercury 19th September 1936

SCHOOL HISTORY MADE AT GORLESTON

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL OPENED

The Value Of Swimming For The Blind

The East Anglian Blind and Deaf School at Gorleston has become the first school in the borough to have its own swimming pool. This was opened on Friday afternoon by the Mayor in the presence of a large gathering of those interested in the work of the school.

Situated in the school's grounds, the pool is 60 feet long, 21 feet wide and has a depth ranging from 2 feet to 5 feet. Its capacity is 31,000 gallons and the water is filtered, softened, chlorinated and aerated every eight hours. The cost of £800 has already been met.

The new pool takes the place of a small canvas bath, which formerly did duty for the school bathers, and marks the culmination of a scheme originated by the enterprising headmaster of the school, Mr Edward Evans, last autumn.



Teachers Football Team 1937 – No Names?

Deaf Children under instruction in Classroom





Miss Halfnight – Norwich Home

Miss Elliot – Essex Home



The following snippets have been taken from the minutes of the East Anglian School Governors meetings.

1912 Letter Boy

Resolved that a waterproof cape be provided for the Letter Boy at a cost of seven shillings and six pence.

Pack up your troubles

Friday 6th December 1912 – The Clerk was instructed to obtain from Mr Pope of Downham Market from discharged soldiers, kit bags to be used for children to take away their belongings at holiday times. (**Author's Note** The kit bags purchased were left over from troops coming back from the Boer War; I think 1902 to 1904, which were made good use of by the children.)

Gift of Books (1912)

The headmaster reported that Mr T. A. Cox had presented the Institution with a large number of his books for the use of the deaf children. Resolved that the best thanks of the committee be given to Mr Cox for his very useful gift.

Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree

Friday 6th December 1912 – The Clerk reported that the Headmaster was providing a Christmas tree for the children and had asked for instructions with regard to the tree being illuminated with candles. The use of candles or night-lights was to be permitted under proper precautions.

Author's Note

Health and Safety Inspectors, please look away now.

That's Entertainment

Friday 9th May 1913 – The Headmaster reported that Colonel Bulmer had taken 60 deaf children to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in the Great Yarmouth Town Hall and entertained them to tea.

Friday 6th June 1913 - On the invitation of Mr Tom Cook, all the deaf children had been admitted free to the Suffolk Agricultural Show at Gorleston.

Grateful thanks should be given to both these gentlemen for their great kindness.

Daily Bread

May 1913 – The Clerk submitted Mr Matthes price of 4d and 3 halfpennies for 4lb loaf of standard bread. Having regard to the excellent report of the Medical Officer on the health of the children, it appeared unnecessary at the present to make any change in the bread supplied to the Institution.

Dorothy Mayes an Exemplary Pupil

Friday 4th July 1913 – The Headmaster reported that this girl, who with the consent of the House Committee, had been retained in the Institution after reaching 16 years of age in order to complete a period of probation as a dressmaker at Messrs Palmer of Yarmouth, would leave the Institution on the 7th July 1913. He further reported that a sum sufficient to provide for her maintenance during the first year of her apprenticeship has been subscribed and that Messrs Palmer had offered to guarantee an amount of £10 on their behalf. The girl will live at a satisfactory private home at Gorleston. The report was received with satisfaction and pleasure expressed at the generous response to the appeal on the girl's behalf.

School Magazine

Friday 2nd October 1914 – The question of the school magazine was considered and it was resolved that the Committee consider that the future of the expense of the magazine should be borne by the Sports Fund, so that the Governors would have no responsibility for any statements in it.

That's Entertainment

Friday 1st March 1929 – The Headmaster reported that after the purchase of the cinematograph, there was a balance of £48.00 and suggested that part of this might be utilised for the extension of the wireless installation at the cost of £5.00, a gramophone at £4.00 and the school magazine at £7.00.



Playing on see-saw 1930



Roundabout 1930's



Sports Day 1933



Feeding pigeons 1933

Building Air Raid Shelters 1938



In 1938 with the clouds of war gathering, there was a flurry of activity to build three large air raid shelters at the school, for the use of the local population as well as the entire school. (Who said they were NOT ready?)



School Reunion 1939 – What are they talking about?

Chapter 3

The War Years

1939 -1946

On the 3rd of September 1939, following the invasion of Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

In Britain, troops were mobilised, rationing started, gas masks were issued and warnings about enemy bombing raids were sent to every household. The RAF dropped leaflets over Germany calling on them to surrender. Despite all this preparation, nothing happened for more than seven months, people began calling the so-called conflict "The Phoney War."

The first outward sign of the war coming to Gorleston was in September 1939 when gas masks were issued.

May 1940 saw the first air raids started with devastating effect on many towns and cities. The Government decided that school children should be evacuated from the worst affected areas to less dangerous regions.

The Government Evacuation Scheme came out on Tuesday 28th May 1940 and it applied to all the towns and schools throughout the land. All children were given the letter (overleaf) to give to their parents. You had to make up your mind immediately as it was your duty to do so for your children. The information regarding your children had to be returned to the school by the following morning at 9:00a.m.

Most people wanted to take up this option and by Sunday June 2nd 1940 evacuation was implemented throughout the country with nearly three million children on the move at the same time. Not knowing where they were going, not knowing where they would end up. Imagine movement on a mammoth scale like this, it was quite some operation and it really went quite well.

The letter was sent out to the parents together with a list of clothes and equipment required for each child.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

28th May 1940

Dear Sir, Madam,

The Government have decided that the school children of Great Yarmouth shall be evacuated to places of safety in the Midlands or Wales. Exact information concerning destination will not be available until Saturday next, 1st June. The Government strongly urge that every parent shall take advantage of the evacuation scheme now being prepared.

You are free to make up your mind.
BUT YOU MUST MAKE UP YOUR MIND AT ONCE.

It is your duty to do so for the sake of your children. The Authorities cannot make their plans at all if they do not know the number for whom they must provide. Parents who desire their children to be evacuated should complete the form of consent, which will be issued by the Head Teacher.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL BY
9 O'CLOCK ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, 29TH MAY.

It is expected that the parties will leave
Great Yarmouth by train on Sunday 2nd June
and will be accompanied by their teachers.

If you want any help, or there is anything
you do not understand, go to your child's
school where you will get full information
of the arrangements.

Yours faithfully,

G.J. WROUGHTON,
Clerk to the Committee
Education Offices,
28, South Quay
Great Yarmouth.

* * * * *



COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Clothes and equipment required by each child: -

Gas Mask	Spare stockings or socks
Identity card	House shoes or plimsolls
Ration book	Warm coat or mackintosh
Food for the day	Toothbrush
Change of underclothing	Comb
Night clothes	Towel
Handkerchiefs	

He should wear his warmest and thickest boots or shoes. The child's clothes should, if possible, be packed in a rucksack or haversack, which he can carry on his back so as to leave hands free, rather than in a suitcase. The luggage must not be more than the child can carry. Any other clothes required by the children can be sent later on.

Be sure your child has his ration book with him. If pages of coupons out of his book have been deposited with retailers, ask for their return and pin the pages in the ration book. If the child leaves before the pages have been recovered, forward them to your local Food Office.

Both the ration book and the identity card should be securely packed in the child's luggage and not given to him to hold.

The evacuation of the East Anglian School was never going to be straightforward as it was decided that the school would be evacuated in its entirety. Before the Government's Evacuation Scheme was announced plans were already being made to evacuate the school. It had been decided by the Governors at a meeting on the Tuesday 28th May 1940 that all the pupils would be returned to their sponsoring Local Authorities as soon as possible in line with the plan to evacuate all children from Great Yarmouth. Once the school was emptied of children the Teaching Staff were to be given six weeks holiday in lieu of the Summer Holiday.

This sensible action was no doubt taken to secure the safety of the children and to give time for the move to the new school to be arranged.

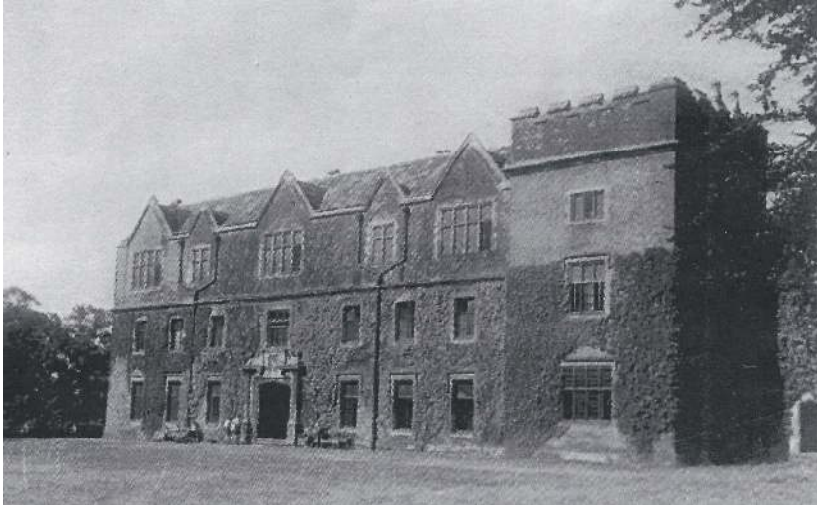
Relocation of the school to somewhere, safer in East Anglia was the preferred choice and all immediately available, suitable local locations were considered. To this end the Headmaster, Mr Edward Evans made visits to Oakham, Icklingham and Stowmarket. It transpired, however, that the best option considered was Aberpergwm House in Glyn Neath, Glamorganshire, Wales.

The Headmaster visited Aberpergwm House and was not happy with the general state of the two buildings the school would occupy and before the final decision to move was made he sought assurances that the Ministry of Health would pay for the necessary renovations required to make both the properties habitable to which they agreed.

Now read Mr Evans' frank appraisal of Aberpergwm House and the Dower House.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Aberpergym House, Glyn Neath



Aberpergwm House is situated in a large park surrounded by woods and in a beautiful valley, marred only by the colliery tips, which everywhere disfigure the landscape in South Wales. It lies in the outskirts of the village of Glyn-Neath about 12 miles from Neath and 2 miles from the borders of Breconshire. The village was served by motorbuses and a railway, which was about a mile away. The house is very strongly built of stone and has an uncertain number of outbuildings, which were only used for rough storage purposes.

The kitchen and lavatory accommodation is extremely primitive and we have had to make temporary arrangements pending new

installations, which will be carried out by the Neath Rural Council for the Ministry of Health. This work, as has every other effort in connection with the evacuation, has been badly held up by the war situation and particularly by the sudden aerial activity, which took place over the coast towns of South Wales as soon as we arrived. Until then, they had been immune.

The Dower House, Maes-y-ffnon



The Dower House is on the edge of the village and is a large, detached building in gardens which were once pleasant, but are now in a dreadful state, and which will take a considerable time to make useful. There is a field behind, part of which, next year, I hope to utilise for our gardening classes and for vegetables. Here, too, temporary sanitary accommodation has been improvised. The rooms are adaptable as classrooms for our small numbers and this has made it possible to use it for nearly the whole school, including boot-making and carpentry classes.

When Aberpergwm was taken over by the Welsh Board of Health, it was full of furniture belonging to the owner, Mr Godfrey Williams. A skeleton staff was taken down and commenced to clear sufficient room for sleeping accommodation for the children who were still at school, 70 in number and the staff. The building had not been occupied for over 20 years and it was and still is in a very dirty condition. A great deal of progress has been made and before long the whole place will be thoroughly cleansed. A great deal of delay in removing the owner's furniture held us up badly as our school furniture and apparatus kept arriving. Part of the premises was occupied by the resident caretaker and his family and by the office of the estate. These have now left and we have the whole of Aberpergwm for our own use. In addition to this, it was only last week (22nd July 1940) that we received official sanction to move into Maesyffyon.

The children travelled very comfortably from Gorleston. Unfortunately the day before we were due to leave, the first air raid in S. Wales took place and 4 children were immediately withdrawn. We had to do a great deal of borrowing and improvising at first because the container with our bedding and crockery was five days later than the scheduled time in arriving here. People were very kind and I was able to borrow bedding and hire crockery. I had to

purchase a water boiler and some Primus stoves. The Esse cooker, which had been ordered, arrived with more than half its parts missing so that has not been available.

Edward Evans
(Headmaster East Anglian School)

Mr Evans was immediately faced with some staffing problems as once the new school location was announced a number of the Medical and Domestic Staff proffered their resignations, which had to be accepted.

On Monday 17th June 1940, the Headmaster, Mr Edward Evans, and the School Caretaker, Mr Harry Websdale, travelled down to Wales for a general inspection and to help them plan for the move. A few days later, Mr Evans and a skeleton staff returned to Wales to prepare for the arrival of the pupils.

Not every child went some parents preferring to take them home. By the end of June, all the remaining pupils were packed off with their teachers to pastures new. There were around 120/130 pupils in residence at Aberpergwm House during the war.

Once the children and staff had been moved to Wales life began to settle into a resemblance of normality.



The Headmaster on this subject in March 1942.

"Apart from a persistent succession of cases of diphtheria and influenza colds the health of the children had been satisfactory. The restrictions in diet, the loss of our extensive playing fields and our limited accommodation have, no doubt contributed to a lowering of vitality and of resistance to disease. The damp climate has also affected children used to a more invigorating and drier climate. On the whole and considering the strain of wartime conditions, apart from our liability to epidemics, the health situation is reasonably satisfactory".

Local surgeons who paid regular visits to the school carried out the specialist Aural and Ophthalmic care required by the children. In order to receive dental care the children were required to visit a local dentist. However the epidemics mentioned above did sometimes delay regular checkups and consequently treatment.

Physical Training was a problem owing to the lack of facilities at the school. The winter weather, which was frequently inclement, curtailed the walks that were used to keep the children fit. In mid 1942 the Welsh Board of Health made available a large hut, which was suitable to be used as a gymnasium. With the equipment the school had brought from Gorleston and some improvisation Physical Training again took its proper place in the curriculum.

The formal recreational pursuits that were possible in Gorleston had to give way to more improvised activities owing to local conditions. Football, rounders, cricket, skating and hiking were

the principal outdoor activities, with the occasional visit to a local swimming pool. Indoor games of all sorts were available, with the weekly dance proving most popular.

The Miners Welfare Association proved to be a good friend to the school. They allowed access to the Pithead Baths, which was of particular assistance considering the lack of facilities at Aberpergwm House. As guests of the Association the children were allowed into the local cinema when suitable films were available. Many local music societies gave concerts at the school. The local villagers provided entertaining as well as dramatic performances. This aspect of the children's recreation was better than at Gorleston.

The local churches were also accommodating in that they conducted services in English when the pupils attended. If the weather was bad the church services were held at the school.

Handicrafts were taught and the effects of wartime shortages were minimised by adopting a policy of buying ahead which worked very well. During 1942 a plot of land was bought with the aim of starting gardening classes. The ground initially required some very hard work but soon yielded benefits for the pupils and the school kitchen.

Also at this time piano lessons were started with the appointment of a Mrs Howard on a part-time basis. The Headmaster commented in his annual report that "Results soon justified this appointment".

The war never stopped the development of new equipment that might benefit the blind or the deaf. One development during the war years was to be of help to the partially deaf. This was a new amplifying set with tone and volume controls. There were three microphones, which allowed the pupil not only to hear the

teacher but also themselves. This proved to be a wonderful aid in the education of the partially deaf.

Children eventually reach an age when they leave school even during wartime. The East Anglian School was no different from other schools. There was an added difficulty for the leavers from the school in Wales as they all came from East Anglia and went home to their places of origin to seek work. They were generally successful at getting work and in 1942 all 23 leavers had a job when they left. This was a testament to the determination of the pupils to join society on equal terms. Of course the leavers were replaced with new pupils who required the specialist help the school offered.

Mundane issues such as replacing crockery caused concern for the Headmaster as stocks began to dwindle. Clothing was always a problem, particularly footwear. The uneven roads and rough land around the school caused the children's footwear to have a relatively short life. The most unlikely shortage was of soap. As coalmines surrounded the school and the coal dust was ever present, as you might expect, bathing was a more regular activity.

During wartime with rationing of many foods, it was always difficult to maintain supplies. As we all know children of this age are always hungry. However, with careful management and forethought the Headmaster was able to provide fish once a week and also a weekly supply eggs for the pupils. The school maintained links with Gorleston from where they received a regular supply of sweets and oranges, when available.

New Headmaster Appointed

On Friday 20th November 1942 a special meeting of the School Governors was convened at the Guildhall Norwich to discuss the resignation of Mr Edward Evans the Headmaster.

Mr Evans had been Headmaster for fourteen and a half years but was to leave the East Anglian School to take up a position as Assistant Secretary to the National Institute for the Blind. The Governors accepted his resignation with regret.

The Governor's meeting resolved to advertise for a replacement in the Schoolmaster and the Times Educational Supplement.

Of the applicants, five were selected for interview, all of which were working with Blind and/or Deaf Children.



The successful candidate R.G.H. Gough (pictured) was the Senior Assistant Master at the East Anglian School. He had been at the school since 1921. He had previously been a teacher at the Freemans School, Wellingborough.

He started his duties as Headmaster on Monday 1st March 1943

Snippets from the Residency in Wales

Fire at School

On Wednesday 6th May 1942 there was a fire at the school caused by the fusing of an electric cable. The Governors praised the prompt action of Mr Gough the Headmaster and Mr Howard in putting out the fire. However they were not so generous towards The Matron who lost some personal belongings in the fire. The Governors declined to compensate her for her losses.

Staff Issues

It was reported that John Ellis who had been the school Caretaker since the school opened, left owing to ill health, after 29 years service.

Mrs Daniels who was the Senior Mistress in the Blind School retired after 26 years service.

Members of Staff who had been conscripted into the Armed Services were all well with only Mr Edwards serving abroad in Libya while the rest were in England.

Miss Howell (Homemother) given permission to visit her parents whose home had been destroyed by enemy action.

Parental Visits

Parents were given two free rail warrants a year to travel to Wales to see their children. Many parents took advantage of the opportunity to visit their children spending their holidays in the vicinity of the school. Children were allowed to stay with their parents usually in accommodation provided in the local village.

Meanwhile back in Gorleston .

HGCC.
Michael Faraday & Partners.
 ESTABLISHED 1856.
Surveyors & Auctioneers.

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 TOWN HALL.

77, Chancery Lane,
 London, W.C.2.

10, Brook Street,
 Grosvenor Square,
 London, W.1.

28th March, 1941.

E.W. Woodhead, Esq.
 East Anglian School for Blind & Deaf Children,
 Church Road,
 Gorleston.

Dear Sir,

East Anglian School for Blind & Deaf
 Children.

We have to-day had an interview with
 the War Department Land Agent regarding the rent
 which they propose to pay in respect of the Military
 occupation.

He suggested, having regard to Section
 2(1)(a) of the Act, that there would be some difficulty
 in securing a tenant for the premises. The offer
 made was upon the basis of £600 per annum exclusive,
 but we were unfortunately faced with the fact that
 the premises were void at the time that you received
 the requisition and it would be difficult to suggest
 that a tenant could be found. We were, however,
 finally able to secure an increase in this offer,
 which accorded with our own views, upon the basis of
 £785 per annum exclusive.

It will be remembered that the Military
 occupied parts of the premises at various times, and
 therefore it must not be expected that this rental
 will be paid from the date that the Military first
 went into occupation, but a mean date will have to
 be agreed upon.

We are of opinion that the rental
 which the War Department Land Agent is prepared to

The letters above and overleaf describes the limited options open to the Governors in renting out the school. Because of these limited options the Governors finally decided to rent the school to the Army for the duration of the war.

ARADAY & PARTNERS, LTD.

TO E.W.Woodhead, Esq. SHEET NO. 2. DATE 28.3.1941.

recommend is reasonable, and we shall be pleased to hear that you are agreeable to accept same.

We understand that you instructed Messrs.Wm.Gambling & Duffield to prepare or check the Schedule of Condition of the premises, and this firm were also instructed by the War Department to prepare a Schedule on their behalf. In view of this you will be responsible for the payment of fees to Messrs.Wm.Gambling & Duffield, and we enclose their account which has been handed to us by the War Department, but they in turn will reimburse you for this amount.

The War Department have also agreed to contribute their proportion of our fees upon the basis of 5 Guineas per cent. upon the first £300 of the rental ultimately agreed, and 2½ Guineas per cent. upon the residue, which we calculate to be £28.8.9.. We shall therefore be pleased to hear that you accept the recommendation of £785 per annum exclusive which the Land Agent is prepared to put forward, and if this is accepted you should receive in the first payment of rent their contribution towards our fees, namely, £28.8.9.

We are, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

Michael G. Arad

165 300 435 15
Encl.

Remembering of course that at the time the Governors had no way of knowing how long the war would last.

THE PRINTING ON REVERSE OF THIS FORM IS CANCELLED.

ARMY FORM W 3068.

AN AGREEMENT made the *sixteenth* day of

April 1941 BETWEEN the Governors
of the East Anglian School for Blind and Deaf Children, Gorleston

of the City Hall, Norwich.

of the one part and HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT (hereinafter called "the
Department") of the other part.

"Insert
Description
of Land."

WHEREAS the Department has taken possession of* The East Anglian
School for Blind and Deaf Children, Church Road,
Gorleston, Norfolk.

pursuant to the powers conferred on it by the Defence Regulations 1939 by
reason of which compensation is or will be payable to the said Governors

under the provisions of the Compensation (Defence) Act 1939

IT is hereby agreed between the parties hereto that the Department
shall pay and the said Governors

shall accept payment at the rate of £ 785. 0. 0. per annum payable
quarterly on the usual quarter days in satisfaction of the sums which may be
payable pursuant to section 2 (1) (a) and of interest thereon under section 10
of the said Act

AS WITNESS the hands of the parties hereto

Witness to the signature of

E. W. Woodhead

E. W. Woodhead

Clerk to the Governors.

Witness to the signature of

HERBERT EDWARD GILLET

H. E. Oakford
Land Officer
66/68 Haymarket
SW1

on behalf of His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of
State for the War Department.

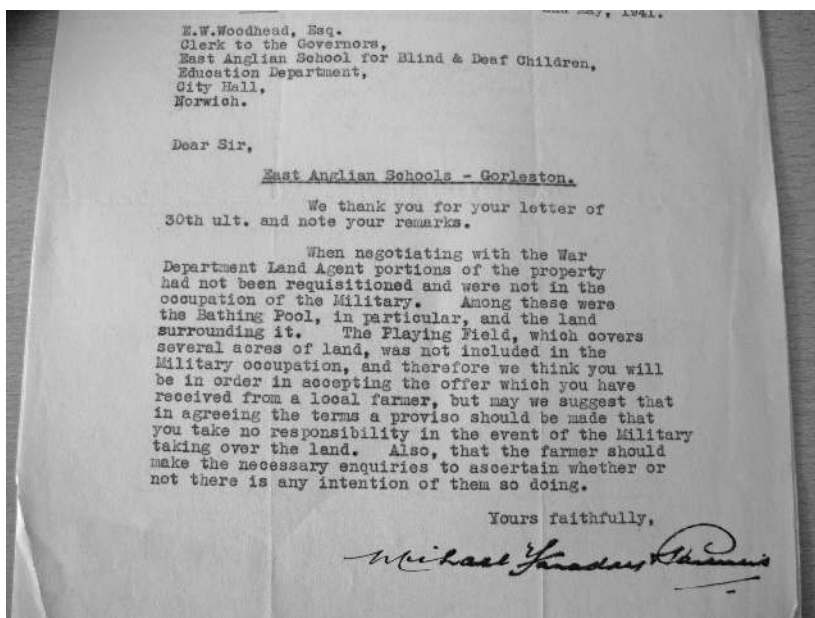
H. E. Gillett
Land Branch

Signed Agreement for the rent of the school

It was not simply a case of the Army taking over the School. There were negotiations between the War Department and the Governors who ran the East Anglian School to decide how much the War Department would pay in rent and which parts of the school the Army would occupy. The rent was evaluated to be

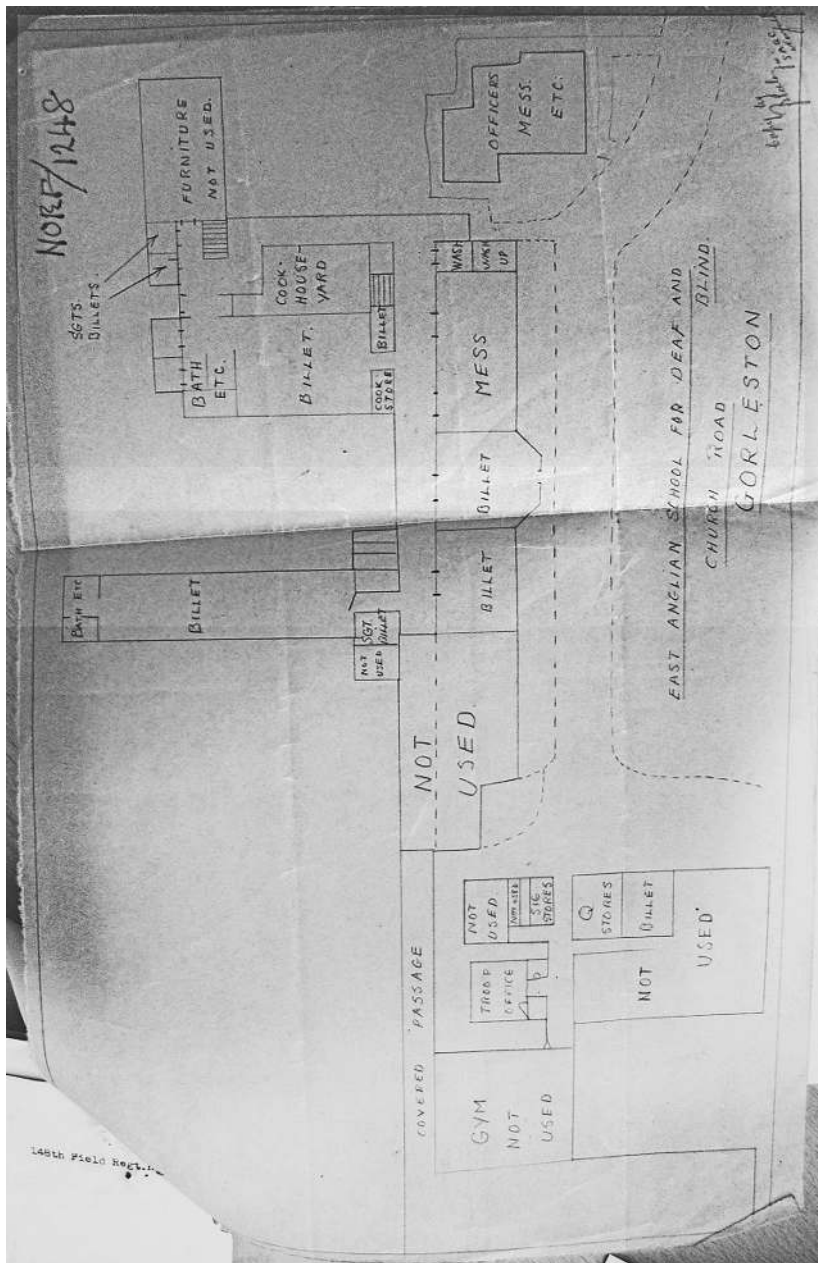
£785 .0 .0 and the signed agreement is shown opposite. Since the Army never rented the whole of the school grounds the Governors of the school were at liberty to do as they pleased with the remainder.

A local farmer offered £4 .0 .0 per annum for the rent of the playing field. A letter was sent from the Governors of the school to their Surveyors on the advisability of accepting this offer. The reply to this letter is shown below.



The diagram overleaf shows what the Army rented.

Another issue the Governors had to contend with was who was to pay the Rates for the School while it was occupied by the Military. On Monday 30th June 1941 a letter was sent to the Rating Officer in Great Yarmouth for clarification on this issue.



30th. June, 1941.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of Demand Notices for rates for the school buildings at Gorleston.

Before presenting the necessary cheque to Committee I should be glad to be informed if there is not some adjustment necessary in the amount payable.

Having regard to the evacuation of the School to Wales the bungalow is unoccupied, the School being in the occupation of the Military, whilst the Headmaster's House (which is included in the general assessment) was recently demolished as the result of enemy action.

I shall be glad to hear from you on these points as soon as possible. The Demand Notices are enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk to the Governors.

The Rating Officer,
Municipal Offices,
Great Yarmouth.

Letter to Rating Officer

It transpired that on this issue, as with certain items of Insurance the Treasury were responsible for the payments on behalf of the Military. It seems that even though Britain was facing the bleakest times since the Norman Invasion in 1066, as always bureaucracy

still reigned. Having said that, all correspondence appears to have been expedited in a timely manner and certainly more speedily than would seem to be possible today.

What the Army did at the School.

The Army deployed a 3.7-inch Anti-Aircraft Gun Battery and a searchlight battery in the vicinity of the school's sports ground. It was common practice for these guns to be operated by both women and men.



Under training - female Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) handling a 3.7 anti-aircraft gun, in readiness for the Luftwaffe, 29th July 1941.

These Guns were necessary as Gorleston was bombed resulting in injury and loss of life.

For instance on May 13th 1941 just after midnight, four high explosive bombs fell in the area of Colomb Road and High Street Gorleston. One scored a direct hit on 15 Colomb Road killing the two

occupants and burying the next-door family under tons of rubble, killing one and injuring the others. Another bomb fell in the yard of Hammonds Ironmongers Shop in the High Street with no casualties.

The Headmaster's house was badly damaged in a bombing raid in 1941 (It is unclear whether this was the same raid). Both the

Headmaster's house and the two houses in Colomb Road were rebuilt in 1945/46.

A Mr Hodds from Great Yarmouth recalls how as an apprentice to the builder R.H. Carter he was employed in the erection of the new roof timbers for the Headmaster's house.

The Blind School, Gorleston

Dear Maurice,

"I would like to confirm I was apprenticed to R. H. Carter, Anson Road, Great Yarmouth and was in 1946 employed on the headmasters new house, I will always remember this building, it was the first time I was entrusted with erecting the roof timbers and after 60 odd years it's still standing".

I also told you of the day when the children left school to return to their homes for the summer holidays, the tears, the hugs, and sad faces on that day will always remain in my memory. Deaf children were the eyes of the blind, blind children the ears of the deaf. Think what separation must have meant to them, I'm not afraid to say it brought tears to my eyes.

Thanks again!

Yours faithfully
E. F. Hodds

After the War - Coming Home to Gorleston

At 23:01 on Tuesday 8th May 1945 World War 2 officially ended. The Headmaster immediately started to plan for the return to Gorleston. Some delay was going to be inevitable as the Army had to make good any changes they had made whilst the school was in Wales.

The diary of the return is shown below.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 26/6/1945 | The Headmaster and Matron travelled back to Gorleston to inspect the state of school buildings after the Army's occupation. They also attended a Governors meeting. |
| 26/7/1945 | Mr Buck oversaw the removal of all equipment and training aids back to Gorleston. |
| 9/8/1945 | Female members of the domestic staff left Wales. |
| 18/8/1945 | The removal of all equipment to Gorleston was completed at noon. |
| 20/8/1945 | The Headmaster left for Gorleston. |
| 21/8/1945 | The Headmaster took up residence in his new house in Gorleston, which had been rebuilt. |
| 22/10/1945 | Matron and Assistant Matron back in residence. |
| 29/10/1945 | All the domestic staff returned to Gorleston but they were not able to take up residence, as work on their accommodation had not been completed. |
| 18/2/1946 | Thirty-One children returned to Gorleston. |
| 19/2/1946 | The school at Gorleston reopened. |

20/2/1946 By the end of the afternoon 83 children had returned to the school.

23/3/1946 A total of 146 children were in residence.

Apart from the damage to the Headmaster's house the school and its grounds were not badly affected by the war. However the greenhouses were so badly damaged that they had to be replaced. Consequently salads in the summer months were re-instated.



Chapter 4

After the War Life Resumes

1946 –1955

The school returned from Wales in early February 1946, back to Gorleston after nearly five years away! The Headmaster's house had just been rebuilt and the new roof was completed in time for him to move in again.

After the army's occupancy for the duration of the war the school needed a facelift. For instance the parquet floor blocks had to be replaced. As coal was in short supply during the bitterly cold winter of 1944 the Army had used them for firewood. During this period the children were sent to their homes to have an extended summer holiday, which lasted through to Christmas!!!!

Even when the children returned to the school in February 1946, work had not been completed. I am told it was a nightmare trying to stop the children getting fresh paint over their clothes as redecoration was still in progress.

Strangely, the same problems regarding illness, occurred on the return to Gorleston as had happened when the school went to Wales. There were outbreaks of mumps, measles, diphtheria and other childhood illnesses. Again some of the staff also suffered as they did in Wales.

Despite these irritations everyone was anxious to settle in and return to normal as quickly as possible. One activity sure to bring this about was the commencement of the school's plays and pantomimes. These were immensely important for building the children's self-confidence and were very popular with both participants and audiences.

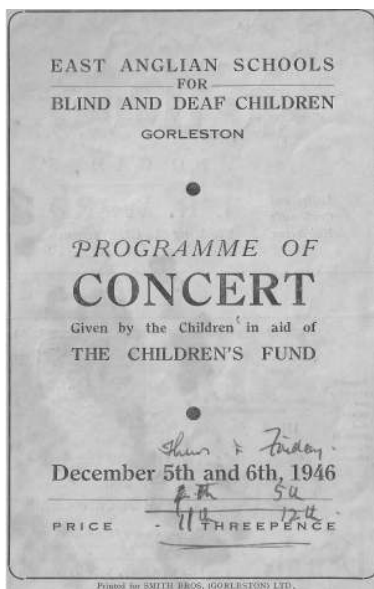
This chapter captures school life using photographs taken at the time. In all the pictures the children and staff seem very happy and contented. They were all far from home but the school at Gorleston had again become their home.

To be able to show you the Christmas concert programmes dating from 1946 through to 1951 with pictures from each production has been a thrill.

Although the East Anglian flag mentioned in Chapter 1 was never universally adopted you will see it being flown below in the 1953 picture of the school, during the celebrations for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



1953 East Anglia Flag flying on Coronation Day

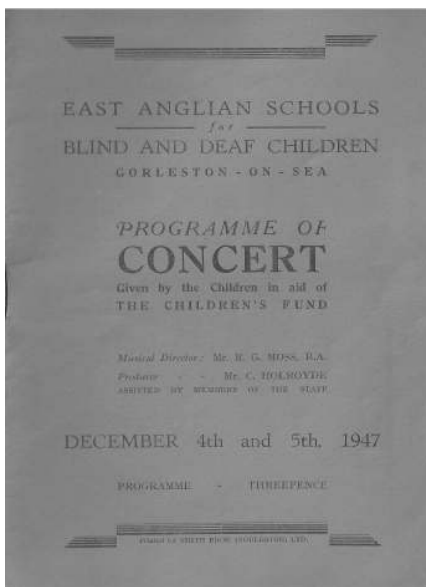


School Choir

Cinderella (Performed by School Brownies)



Concert Programmes and Scenes 1946/47



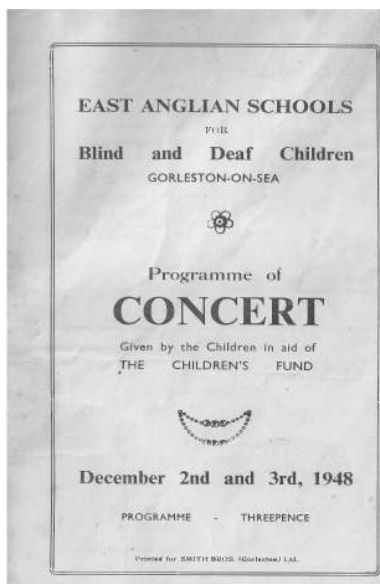
Wedding of the Painted Doll



Willow Pattern Plate



Doll Dance



Jack's Ashore



Pluto in the Underworld



Land of Nod

1948 Concert Programmes and Scenes

1949 E.A.S. Scout Troop





1949 An outing on Gorleston Sea Front



1949 Scenes from Swimming Gala

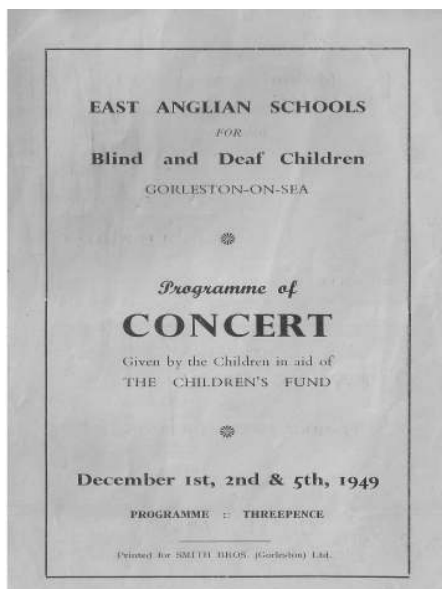




1949 Broads Excursion from Haven Bridge, Great Yarmouth

1949 Miss Bristow's Class





The Sword Dance



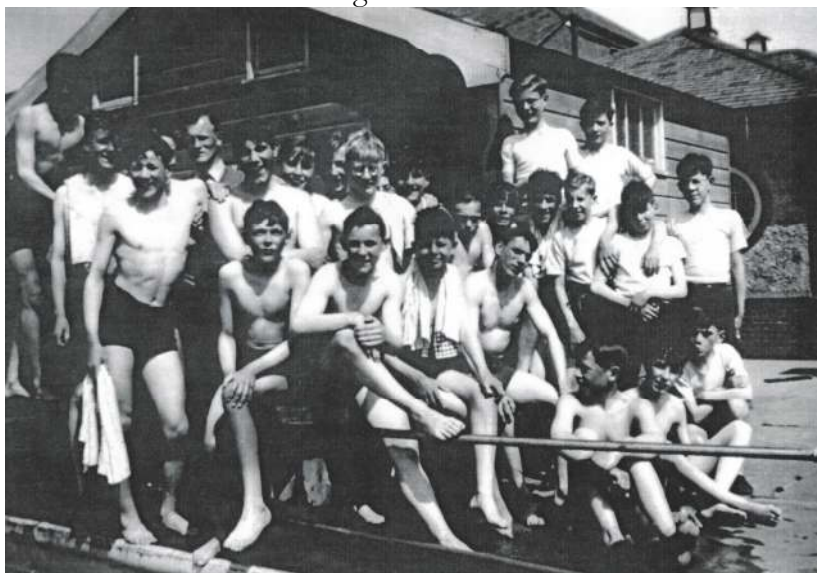
Sweethearts of Yesterday



Wizard of Oz

1949 Concert Programmes and Scenes

1949 Ted Herbert Swimming Class





1950 Harry Websdale and Ron Livick Gardening Class

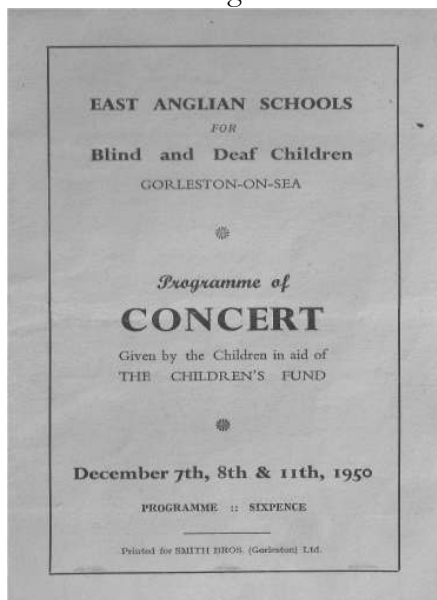
Girls at Rest





1950 School Football Team

1950 Concert Programmes and Scenes



I want to be Alone



Pearls of Pahoo



Little Dutch Garden



1950 Homemother Ethel Beare with Suffolk House Boys

1950 Homemother Ethel Watson with Norfolk House Seniors





1951 E.A.S. Girl Guides

Swimming Lessons





1951 Staff Photograph

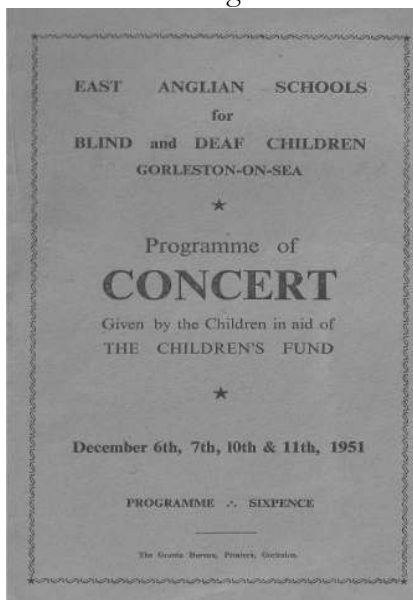
Visit to House of Commons





1951 Boys ----- the perfect pillow

1951 Concert Programmes and Scenes



Folk Dancing



City Harvest



Folk Dancing (Deaf and Blind)



Nurse Butcher with children from Copeman House



Partially Sighted Infants Classroom

Department for the Deaf





Scenes from E.A.S. School Plays



1953 Mr Reginald Gough, Headmaster retires.

After 10 years as Headmaster and many years before as a master Mr Reginald Gough retired from the School. Mr Gough was the architect of the return from Wales in 1946.

He soon set about putting the school 'back to normal' after the upheaval of the War Years. He endeavoured and succeeded to put the 'fun' back into school life with the emphasis being put on out of hour's activities, many of which are highlighted in this chapter.

It is interesting to note that Mr Gough and Mr H. Websdale served in the Royal Observer Corp after the war, as did I (author) for many years.



New Headmaster Appointed

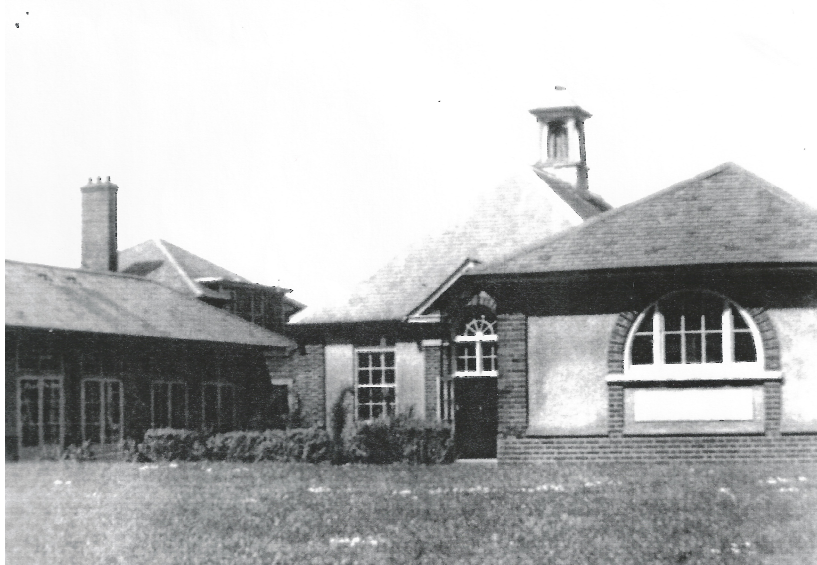
Mr A Spencer Howard, the fifth headmaster of the East Anglian School.

He initially joined E.A.S in 1933 but after a time left to become headmaster of the West of England Institution for the Blind. He returned in 1953 to become the headmaster of the East Anglian School.



Main Entrance of East Anglian School

Typical School Building





A Homemother surrounded by her boys

1953 Gymnasium set for Christmas Dinner





The climbing frame was a favourite with everyone



E.A.S. Football Team including boys from the opposing team

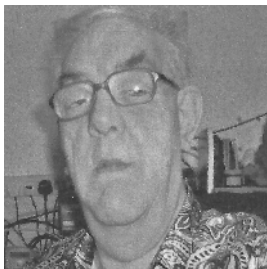
Mr Marsden from Reedham and Mr Davies from Greenacre School, Yarmouth recalled what a hard side E.A.S. were.

When you played them, "You knew you were in for a game"!!!

Chapter 5

Memories of the School

This chapter contains the memories of school staff, pupils and Gorlestonians who had contact with the school. Their contributions are recorded in their own words.



Brian Ford

Attended
September 1945 until December 1952

I will be 9 years old next month & here I am being shoved off to boarding school in Norfolk. Where the hell is Norfolk, never heard of it.

So, here I am standing on platform 13 at Liverpool street station with a suitcase & a silly ticket tied to my coat. There's lots of other kids there as well. We have our tickets checked & then put on the train. The journey seems to take hours.

We arrive at a place called Gorleston & told to take our cases & stand on the platform. There's a quick head count to make sure nobody escaped & then put on a bus for the school. We are divided up into age & sex groups. I end up in Essex group the youngest. There are two other groups in this part of the building for girls (Ely & Cambridge) I believe Ely was for the older ones.

My birthday arrives & I get a parcel from home it contains a small homemade cake & a comic. I am allowed to keep the comic but never saw the cake again. From Essex building there was a long covered corridor that went to the other end of the school where you found Suffolk & Norfolk day rooms & dorms. My memories of Essex are a bit vague so I will move up to Suffolk.

This was more interesting with its outside access. Here you learnt the art of getting undressed in 2 goes. Vest/shirt/jumper came off in one go trousers & pants together. They went back the same way. The school tie was tied once & then sliding the knot up or

down to get it on or off. Daily routines would be, get up (bathroom) get dressed. Strip bed, remake bed put day quilt on bed. Breakfast at this point; two boys would be allocated washing up duties for that week for the entire clan (yuk). Hot water & washing soda made you go all pink + you lost mucking about time. Opposite the day rooms are the cloakroom / washing up & plate storage room / dormitorys Suffolk down, Norfolk up.

Entrance to Suffolk on the left was a linen store. On the right is the masters' night room complete with observation window. Day rooms had two French doors & one round window on the end wall & two rows of day lockers. The French doors looked out onto the old air raid shelter.

Outside from Norfolk are the changing hut & swimming pool a small pool-pumping house & to the left of the pool was the infant block. To the right are the workshops. Left to right are woodworking / boot mending / basket & chair making / Mr Webb's tool store / sewing & mending (Miss Halfnight was in charge here) / laundry. There's a small incinerator at the side of the laundry. Between the workshops & the pool are four swings & a hanging ladder. Further down on the left is a tennis court, on the right is vegetable garden then a line of trees. After the trees left & right more vegetable plots, then the playing field.

(Back inside to Suffolk corridor) on the left after the cloakroom is a playground & boys toilet block flanked by dormitory on one side & the kitchen block on the other. On the right are the teacher's common rooms. The deaf classrooms are behind here. Next left is the kitchens, a staff dining room & a couple of store rooms, the kitchen has a Terra Cotta Floor. Facing the kitchen entrance turn right, then left you come to the stairs that lead to the boiler house under the kitchen. On the right is the medical centre in front two large gates leading to the cindered service road. Opposite the kitchen entrance is the assembly hall/gym at

the back are two short access corridors to the classrooms. Deaf to the right, Blind to the left. The head masters study is on the left in the left corridor

After the kitchen there's another playground marked out for netball + girls toilet block, flanked by medical building & girls dormitory.

School bell was hung at the end of the deaf class corridor

The chicken house was down by the line of trees & was on wheels to allow relocation once in a while. The school tractor was a 2 wheeled model. When used for ploughing Mr Webb would have to walk with the machine. If it was for grass cutting or moving stuff the plough came off & a set of wheels with seat were put on & maybe a trailer. The tractor shed was also by the line of trees.

Weekly routines would include. Suffolk had to use the bathroom upstairs on Norfolk landing we had to wait our turn with nothing more than a towel to keep warm. It was like mass production two at a time. Scrub down by day nurse & out to dry. Tray full of sena cote in egg cups & you had to drink it in front of her (vile stuff). Strip & make bed with clean linen (heaven help you if you did not make hospital corners). Stay outside while day nurses put Roluk polish on the dormitory & day room floors.

Every Sunday morning everyone was marched of to church. Boys on the right, girls on the left of the church. Mr Houton was in charge of the boys & if he caught you talking or something you was in trouble.

Sunday afternoons meant another endless walk. A short walk was down school lane left at the bottom & then right down a small road to the quay along the quay past the gutting sheds till you got

to the lifeboat station then right till the swimming pool then right & come back to the high street where Woolworth was then left round the church & back to school. Others included walking along the quay to the bridge & back via the road. Walk to the ferry crossing to get the boat to Yarmouth & walk from there or cliff walk to Hopton past the gun emplacement.

On Saturday afternoon you might be lucky to go to the football match. Which was down church road right at the end & on the right in this road. Saturday morning pictures in the high street was always popular. They used to put us in the circle seats. Once a year Mr Webb put the stage up for the annual concert. Competition for parts in the play is keen.



Circa 1950/1 a cockney scene (painted doll)

The basket-making workshop was a large room with a smaller tank room at the rear for soaking the canes. There is a large bench in the middle of the room & on one side is a floor to ceiling rack for the canes & willows. We have to learn the basics of making baskets from scratch & make things like plate mats. We also made teapot stands & trays with a plaited border, always tricky to finish. Chair caning was done on different shaped practise frames. Stool making was done on real frames made in the woodwork shop. I must have paid attention because I still retain this skill. Laundry; the only thing I remember here was the

huge drying racks on rails, which had to be pulled out of the drying cabinet.

Minor breaks like Easter & Whitsun you could go home if your parents paid for your travel this was fine if you lived near enough. However a lot of us came from London or Essex so this was not an option so we had to stay. During my stay at E A S several boys went over the fence in a bid for freedom (severe home sickness) a couple of them made it all the way before being bought back.

On your last term you were taken into Yarmouth to be fitted with a leaving suit (brown or grey) & a white shirt. No more itchy grey shirts (yippee).

Been back to Gorleston a couple of times since I left & think back sometimes. It wasn't so bad on reflection.

B. C. Ford



Mark Smith

Attended
September 1981 until closure in July 1985

I was only 11 when the school closed and numbers really dropped quite considerably towards the end with, I would think, only about 40 pupils or so.

The degree of mobility and independent living skills we learnt at the school were very good, and I gained a lot of confidence as a child with lots of local trips out and cookery lessons. Going into Gorleston and Great Yarmouth was also very good and enjoyable.

I joined the local cub pack at the church and really enjoyed this and can remember being on parade with the flag, I think on St. George's Day. The cub leaders were really good to me and I got a lot of help and encouragement and eventually in later life went on to successfully complete my Duke of Edinburgh Award, which I think, really started with being a cub!

The physical education was very good, with a fantastic gym and Mrs. Tessa Whites as our PE teacher and the swimming lessons in the outdoor pool were really enjoyable.

I don't think academically that the school from my memories for me was too good, but I remember learning a lot about history and the trips we had out in the mini buses to roman sites, old castles, windmills and various other ancient buildings. We studied a lot with Colin Godfrey on local rivers, maps and general landscape of Norfolk, and this was really good fun.

The local variety clubs and Lions I think were very much involved with fund raising in the local area and especially at Christmas time would visit with Santa and his reindeer with presents!

I had quite a lot of useful sight whilst at the school, and managed very well with clear print and getting out and about with partial sight in my left eye and we had good medical care and I can remember having chicken pox whilst at the school.

Food was quite good, and the Homemothers were strict about table manners etc. and meals were at set times.

We had good recreational facilities with snooker tables, Lego, table tennis, swimming some evenings, a large playground with swings etc. (although towards the end this became very dilapidated).

I was in Peter Chattins class towards the end of my time at the school, who was very kind and understanding towards me, as my parents were going through a divorce at the time which was very upsetting and also mean that I only got home at the end of terms, which for 9/10 year old was very hard and weekends were tough as many of the other children went home.

Best Wishes

Mark Smith

Author's Note

Mark has been working at the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind for over fifteen years. At the time of writing (2013) he is working at the N.N.A.B. as a Coordinator to encourage visually impaired people to take advantage of the facilities offered within the county of Norfolk. There is a quarterly magazine "Magpie News" which highlights Mark's work.

Mrs Rosemary Webb



I worked at the school from 1968 until 1979 as a Teaching Assistant and I was also the Akela to the School's Cub Pack. My husband Ron who was an Engineer at Johnson's Clothing Factory became involved with the School's Scouts Troup. He was given the loan of a van to transport their camping

equipment. He eventually became the Scoutmaster.

Rosemary Webb

* * * * *

Mrs Joan Payne

I had the pleasure to meet this lovely lady on several occasions at the nursing home where she lived in Great Yarmouth. She was a very sprightly and happy lady.

Joan worked at the school from 1938 until 1980 teaching Braille. Her husband also worked at the school for a short time as an Assistant Caretaker. Sadly she passed away on the 22nd December 2008 at the age of eighty-nine years old. I attended her funeral at the Gorleston Crematorium and was delighted to see a turnout of about forty of her former colleagues and pupils in attendance. Some had travelled from Devon and London such was the measure of a well-respected colleague and teacher.

As related to *Maurice Joel*

Mary Dove

I joined the East Anglian School in 1972 and retired in 1983. I was always very happy there and found the staff in all departments to be very friendly. I did apply and was accepted for two other jobs, but decided I would stay on at the school.

The deaf children seemed to be the ones that liked attention as the partially sighted could of course hear and converse. One small boy would find me in the office just before leaving off and would climb on my lap (most essential) take my hand, touching wedding ring and would point frantically towards the car park to indicate, that my husband had arrived to take me home. I would then be escorted to the car and waved away. The deaf children all had hearing aids, not necessarily doing them much good. They would often remove them from their ears and as the part that went into the ear was made of rubber they would chew them! We often got an S.O.S. to say could we help to look in the bushes as someone had thrown their aid away. I have a hearing aid myself now and know just how they felt!

Sometimes, but not often the children would misbehave and would be directed to stand outside the Headmaster's office. This would probably be for some time. This was the punishment of course; they would become very agitated and then there would be a few tears. Mr Johnson, the headmaster who was a very kind and gentle person, would then come to the door, pat them on the head and say "be good, and don't let me see you here again", and most of the time he didn't.

Most of the "boarders" were called for at the weekend by their parents, but some were not. Thanks to the kindness and care of the "Homemothers" they were often taken to the afternoon matinee at the cinema, or cakes etc would be bought to have a party. Sometimes fish and chips were on the menu, which they loved.

Two of the teachers at the school had a profoundly deaf child, but because she could have so much attention, she could, providing she could see your face, lip read perfectly and speak so well. We had one small child who was not a boarder and lived near Lowestoft who would constantly have her surname altered, this was at the request of her mother who often changed her partner and wanted the child to take their name. It didn't seem to be a problem, you would think it would be and I expect it was, legally. I think the poor child was confused and the partners didn't seem impressed.

Altogether some very happy memories, which I am delighted to share.

Mary Dove

Joan Howes

My father, Harry Websdale, worked at East Anglian School for 42 years, until he retired aged 65 years, as Gardener and Caretaker. He took the boys for gardening lessons. He also looked after the swimming pool, cut all the grass and grew lots of vegetables, tomatoes, etc, for the staff and children to eat.



My father was in charge of the other groundsmen and handymen, Mr Cory who helped with the gardening and the boys' classes. Mr Cory went in the forces in the war as a Military Policeman. He came back after the war, but had to leave because of ill health. Ronnie Livick took his place and stayed until he retired. Mr Buck looked after the boilers for the

heating and hot water. Mr Eagle mended the windows, etc, and did painting and decorating. All the groundsmen and handymen went with the school when it moved to Wales during the war.

E.A.S used to put on lovely shows at Christmas time. Normally they would have 3 evening performances and a matinee on a Saturday afternoon. The local people came to watch. The children all worked hard for the shows, as did the staff. My dad was always Stage Manager; helping to move scenery, etc. My father was a judge at the flower shows. He ran the Scouts in Bradwell before the war and played football for Gorleston United in his younger days. He was Secretary of the Yarmouth Referees and the Sunday League. He continued to referee matches long after he retired. My aunt (dad's sister) Ethel Websdale also worked at E.A.S. She worked as a Homemother and also went to Wales with the school during the war. When she left E.A.S she went to work at the Birmingham Deaf School where she stayed until she retired. After her retirement she moved back to Gorleston with Miss Elliott, who had also worked at E.A.S at one time.

My family moved to Wales when E.A.S was transferred there during the war. We shared a house with another family and had 2 rooms for our use. We stayed in Godfrey Avenue, not far from 'the big house' where the children from E.A.S lived. The Welsh people were very nice to us mostly, but sometimes the Welsh children were not always so nice. My sister and I went to the village school in Glyn Neath. The children from E.A.S walked from 'the big house' to another house called Maes-y-ffyon for their schooling. The schoolhouse is now an old people's home. As a young girl, I also worked at E.A.S for 7 years as a Homemother. I worked with several of the older Homemothers at the time.

Some of these Homemothers were Miss Blowers, Miss Butcher, Miss (Nellie) Cross, Miss (Ethel) Watson, Miss (Margery) Halfnight and her sister Miss (Hilda) Halfnight. At the time I was one of the younger staff. Some other younger Homemothers at the time were Edna Gurney, Mary Saunders, Norah Toll, Dora Smallwood, Ethel Beare, Betty Ives, Miss Barber and Audrey Amor.

The Isolation Hospital was originally built for the yacht that the school had at one time. It was then changed into the Isolation Hospital. After the war, it was changed into 3 bedrooms for Homemothers. I had one of these bedrooms. The school had its own Hospital that could hold about 10 children. The Hospital was used for clinics each morning and evening. A dentist also came in most Friday evenings for fillings etc. If children needed to have teeth removed this was usually done on a Saturday morning in the Hospital. The school had one trained Nurse and a Matron. When there was an outbreak of measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough etc, the children would stay in their own dormitories and the Homemothers would care for them. Only the very ill children would be moved to the Hospital. Dr Marwood came in every day - sometimes only to have coffee with Matron or Nurse Mary.

Some of the Matrons I remember are Matron Bevin (who went with the school to Wales during the war), Matron Flegg, and Matron Nicholls. The Matrons were in charge of all the Homemothers. In the kitchen, Miss Hope was the Cook. Miss Hope went with the school to Wales during the war, returning after the war and stayed until she retired. After Miss Hope retired, Mrs Preston was the Cook for the staff and Mr Burwood for the children. There was other kitchen staff that helped with preparing vegetables, etc. The food was good. The menu changed every 3 weeks. The school had its own Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides. The school also had its own band.

Teacher's names over the years I worked at East Anglian School:
Teachers of the Blind: Miss Brahms, Mr Moss, Miss Jones and Mrs Payne.

Teachers of the Deaf: Mr Roll, Mrs Roll, Mrs D Stokes, Mr G Stokes, Miss Taylor (also taught Music), Mr Houghton, Miss O'Connor, Mr Knight, Mr Pickett, Mrs Pickett, Mr Hubbard, Mr Hannant and Miss Hartley taught PE.

Other staff: Mr Edwards (Basket making, stools, trays, etc). Miss Hilda Halfnight (Tailoress): She made all the girls' winter coats, blouses, gymslips, etc. She also used to teach the older girls dressmaking in the evenings during the winter. Miss Marjorie Halfnight and Kath McNorton? dealt with sorting the laundry. They also did any darning/mending that was needed. Mr G Hubbard (Shoe repairs). There was an inspection every week of the children's shoes to check if any needed to be replaced or repaired.

Joan Howes

* * * * *



Joseph Marlow

Attended 1966-1970

My journey into the deaf world began after being diagnosed partially deaf when I was about nine or ten years old in the 1960's.

I then attended the East Anglian School for the Deaf and Partially Sighted in Gorleston for one to one teaching on a weekly basis to help me with my speech and hearing difficulties. I attended the school between the years 1966-1970 at the same time as attending

mainstream Wroughton Junior and Claydon Secondary Modern School in Gorleston.

I enjoyed my time at the school and remember on a couple of occasions using the swimming pool, which was situated at the back of the school building.

I also remember the school secretary Stella Lewis very well as we both lived on Humberstone Road in Gorleston at the same time as I was attending the school.

The teachers at the school were wonderful, they seemed to have a lot more time and patience for you than most teachers in mainstream schools. I remember one of the teachers asking me what my interests were and I told him that I was learning to play the drums. About a week later he brought in one of his records for me to take home to listen to. The record was the soundtrack from the movie Drum Crazy, the Gene Krupa Story. I do not recall the teacher's name unfortunately but I will always remember his kindness in lending me the record to the soundtrack of my life. As years later I made a career of playing the drums professionally for well over 30 years.

Highlights included playing a summer season alongside the great British drummer Eric Delaney and backing many stars of yesteryear including Skiffle legend Chas McDevitt, Crooner Ronnie Carroll (who married Millicent Martin), and Ray Lewis and the legendary American vocal group the Drifters.

Wonderful memories of a school long gone.

Keep Swinging

Joseph

Pam Fowler

This is from about the mid-1950's until 1960's. I was Secretary at Gorleston Girls' School from June 1953 to July 1963 when I transferred to St Edmund's RC School.

Gorleston Girls' School was on Beccles Road, every Friday, two groups of girls from the age of 11 were brought to Gorleston Girls' School to be taught cookery in one of the three rooms. In the mornings, it was the deaf girls; in the afternoons it was the turn of the partially sighted. All the children enjoyed their cookery lessons — it was obviously a break to come to this lovely big School, and become part of it.

I occasionally saw one or other of them, when their teacher sent one to my office with a message. I don't know how long this arrangement lasted, but I believe eventually, East Anglian School employed their own cookery teacher. It would have changed certainly in 1964, when the Gorleston Girls' School name changed to Claydon, and the first intake of boys came from Alderman Leach School.

Pam Fowler

* * * * *

Maureen Gibbs

My memories of the East Anglian School from 1956 until 1964. I worked for Jack Hewitt the chemist who had a business at 104 High Street, Gorleston, which later became Roy Racey's Chemist.

One of my duties, in the mornings, was to collect any orders and prescriptions needed for the school. I then helped fill the Scripts and pack the orders ready for delivery on my way home at lunchtime or sometimes later in the day. These things had to be

delivered personally to the Sister in charge. My instructions were to go the "back way" up a cinder path to the right of the main buildings. On one occasion in 1963 Mr Racey and myself were delivering a large order after closing the shop to be greeted by a distraught Sister informing us that President Kennedy has been assassinated. A memory that has always remained with me.

In later years I had contact with a Mr Frank Ryan who was an Attendance Officer for Lincolnshire County Council, whose job it was to ferry children from Sleaford to the East Anglian School and returned them home at the end of term.

Maureen Gibbs

P.S. The children were allowed out of school at lunchtimes but only in pairs, never alone. They would visit our shop and others in the High Street. They were always very neat and tidy in their school uniforms.

P.P.S. The Pelican Crossing outside the school had an extra loud buzzer on it for the Deaf and Partially Sighted children's safety.

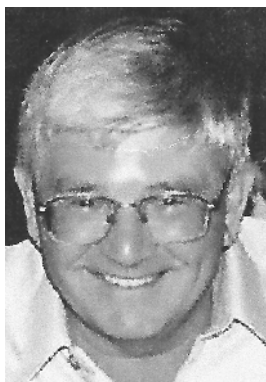
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Mrs Laura Harris

Whilst researching this book I was introduced to a charming lady, Laura Harris aged 90 years. Laura started work in the Laundry of the East Anglian School in 1933/34 and worked there until the outbreak of World War II.

She was asked to go to Wales with the school when it was evacuated. Having just got married, her husband was enlisted in the Royal Navy and posted to Aberdeen. Quite understandably she wanted to be with him while she could, so she left the school.

As related to ***Maurice Joel***



Michael Simmons

Local Schoolboy

Way back in the early 1950's I played football for the Church Road Junior School. We were an average team, but we had never lost by so many goals as that day in September when we came up against the East Anglian School. I was the goalie and we were confident that we would have a good match. It was on their home ground, and their pitch was on a slight hill.

We lost the toss and they chose to play downhill (and down wind) which gave them an advantage. All went well for the first 10 minutes and the game was quite even, but they were gaining confidence and they came towards my goal with so much determination to score that it was just minutes before they scored goal No 1. They didn't let up and in went goal no 2. I was very nervous at this point Goals no's 3 and 4 followed and we had no answer to their team - work and we were relieved to hear the half-time whistle.

After a brief talk to boost our flagging morale by our sports master we ran out thinking we would now have the advantage of the sloping field but how wrong we were. They came out on the field excited and full of determination to score more goals and within minutes, goal no 5 went past me. I was pretty miserable by then, our team had not got anywhere near their goalmouth and I had let in 5 goals in one match. But this was not the end; they

were like a stampede as they charged passed our defence and in went goals No's 6 and 7. I might as well have been a statue and what a relief for our team when the final whistle went. We had never felt so demoralised. 7-0, our heaviest defeat.

After the match, we were offered the use of their outside swimming pool and while some of my team were changing I spoke to my sports master and told him that I never wanted to be goalkeeper again. He tried to persuade me that this was just one game, but my mind was made up and eventually I had a place in the schools team as a defender. I am now 70 years of age but the magnitude of this defeat is always with me.

Another memory I have of this East Anglian school is when there was a school choirs competition held at Gt Yarmouth Town Hall. It was in 1952, the year of the death of King George VI and the accession of Princess Elizabeth to the throne as Queen. All local schools took part including the East Anglian School and in spite of their difficulties in sight and hearing, they amazed everybody with their lovely singing of "Greensleeves". At the end of the competition we were reminded that when we sang the National Anthem we must sing "God Save The Queen" and NOT "The King".

After the thrashing on the football field and the lovely singing of "Greensleeves" I had a new found admiration for the pupils of this school.

My last contact with the school was laying the sheet rubber floors in some of the classrooms when I worked for George Holmes "Anglia" flooring company in about 1960.

Michael Simmonds

Mrs Jennifer Del Toree



Jennifer and Carlo Del Toree

Jennifer Stone was a relief Homemother from 1960 until 1967 when she left the school to marry Carlo Del Toree.

She worked with Ethel Watson in Norfolk Home for Senior Boys. She covered days off and helped with sewing and any other odd jobs that needed doing. She also relieved in other homes when needed including Copeman Home, The Nursery, Cambridge Home, Essex Home, Norwich Home and Suffolk Home.

Jennifer had one day off a week, which was Tuesday and one Sunday off a month. The other Sunday's she covered for other Homemothers to have their Sunday off. Jennifer also covered overnight in the school hospital to allow Matron Nicholls and the Sister to have a night off. Her daily duties included getting the children up, dressed ready for breakfast and school.

The school had three Au-Pair girls on exchange from Rambouillet, France for work experience. They also attended the Great Yarmouth College of Further Education on Day Release. It was one of these girls who introduced Jennifer to her husband to be, Carlo.

As related to *Maurice Joel*

Doreen Stokes nee Nicholson (1946-1973)



1947 Staff Photograph (l to r)

Miss Joan Booth (later Payne)

Senior Mistress 1938 to closure. Teacher of Braille.

Mr Cliff Holroyd

Deputy Head. Teacher of Deaf and Partially Sighted.

Mr Glyn Stokes

Head of Deaf Dept. 1946 until 1980. Teacher of the Deaf. Keen Sportsman - ran the school football team, which competed with local schools. He also took boys climbing in the Lake District.

Miss Joan Heath (later Roll)

Teacher of Deaf 1940's until closure.

Miss Pauline Webber

School Secretary

Miss Bowen

Teacher of pre-school Deaf children. Joined the school in Wales in wartime and left some time in the late 1940s, early 1950s.

Miss Doreen Nicholson (later Stokes) seated.

Teacher of Deaf 1946 until 1973 (sometimes part-time). From 1973 onwards Doreen was peripatetic teacher for hearing impaired babies and children in the Great Yarmouth Borough. Sharing her time equally between the Borough and the school, where she was based.

Needlework classes were run by Marjorie Halfnight (seamstress) and Hilda Halfnight (trained tailoress), who were sisters. They made all the School Uniforms and Coats. Hilda took groups of girls in the evening and taught them needlework.



Mr Glyn Stokes with workshops in the background.

George Hubbard ran the Boot making department and workshops.

Ernest Hanton was in charge of the Art block.

There was a pre-school classroom for the under 5's (Deaf) until the Copeman Home was built near the front gate.

Doreen Stokes

Ron Livick and Mary Saunders

Ron worked at the East Anglian School for 31 years from 1950 until 1981. He was born on 29th November 1916 in Trafalgar Road East, Gorleston and told me it was just a few months after the “Zeppelin Raid” on the town.



The photograph shows Harry Websdale driving the rotor/tiller with Ron on the back, this weird dinosaur looking monster was used for almost

anything that needed pulling/tugging/shifting you name it!! Ron was Harry's assistant, but was a qualified gardener in his own right, plus he took over Harry's role when Harry retired.



above picture shows Ron and Peter Johnstone giving out Christmas presents.

Mary joined the staff of the school as a Homemother in 1948. She was responsible for the care and welfare of boys and girls of all ages, both deaf and partially sighted. She became Homemother in charge of a junior home and was later appointed Senior Homemother. During this year she had been Acting Domestic Bursar.



Mr P Johnstone (Headmaster), in his letter accepting her request for early retirement in 1985 described Mary as an extremely hardworking, loyal and efficient member of staff. She had established excellent relationships with teaching, Child Care and domestic staff and is extremely well respected by all.

Ron and Mary had worked together at the school for many years. Ron having lost his wife some years ago and Mary having lost her sister, with whom she had lived, invited Ron to live with her so she could "keep her eye on him" Ah! Ah!



They both seem to be very happy and I had a very enjoyable afternoon with them.

As related to ***Maurice Joel***

* * * * *

Nick Pownall

Spencer Howard was a cheerful gentleman and a good friend. When I founded the local branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club some sixty years ago he kindly offered us the use of the school swimming pool for training during the summer months.

I remember the pleasure we all enjoyed introducing some of the visually impaired or deaf children to scuba-diving and guiding them up and down the pool.

Spencer's standing joke if he met us socially was to call out, "I scarcely recognize you with your clothes on!"

Nick Pownall

Maurice Joel



Between the 1946 and 1955 re-organisation plan was the period that my family became involved with The East Anglian School.

My brother Geoffrey who had been at East Grinstead (Sussex) Partially Sighted Blind

School was evacuated to the East Anglian School, Glyn Neath in Wales when he was 5 years old. His date of admission to E.A.S. was 7th September 1944 and he was registered as suffering from high myopia. Geoffrey in common with others having this degree of shortsightedness would only be able to see objects clearly if they held them very close to their eye. High Myopia, particularly in children may go undetected until they start school, as they can believe, blurred vision is normal.

The year 1953 was my first introduction to Gorleston and Great Yarmouth. I had just been demobbed from the Army and had taken a temporary job with a brewery in London as a drayman. It was January 31st 1953 (the year and time of the great floods!!), I had just finished a days work and returned to the depot to find several men around the notice board asking if any of the drivers were willing to drive to Great Yarmouth with a load of blankets and bedding "In you own time!" we were told, so I said yes and set off. It was a long journey in those days from London through Shenfield, Brentwood, Gun Hill ... over 5½ hours. When I arrived a policeman directed me onto Bollard Quay, which was the highest point along the river. It was used to unload the large timber boats that arrived throughout the winter. Fortunately it was empty at the time (they had not arrived owing to the bad weather) two large marquees had been erected on the Quay to sort out the bedding and blankets.

Looking down Southtown Road there were lots of rowing boats full of people who had been assisted, down ladders from bedroom windows into the boats.

Somebody shoved a bag of fish and chips and a mug of tea in my hands, said “Thank you” and sent me off back to London and back to work. I did this for three nights then somebody else took over.

Little did I know at the time we would be moving down to Gorleston two weeks after the coronation in June 1953! Later that same year father decided he and Mum could not afford to keep coming down to Gorleston to visit Geoffrey, so being a fitter by trade, he was able to get a job at the Birds Eye factory in Great Yarmouth and spent the last 27 years of his working life there. We then were all able to see a lot more of brother Geoffrey.

Geoffrey was at the school during the big modernisation programme when E.A.S. became one of the best schools in the area.



Geoffrey working in the school laundry. This was part of the training to prepare the pupils for life when they left the school. E.A.S. believed it was important for all their pupils to be prepared for life in the outside world.

Below are two pictures showing Geoffrey when he came home at weekends. The right hand picture shows my three brothers (l-r) Barrie, Brian and Geoffrey



The left picture shows Geoffrey in his school uniform and that's me holding my youngest brother. I was on leave from the Navy at the time.



Geoffrey stayed at the school until he was sixteen. He had two over-riding interests, railways and the cinema. When he left school he became an Assistant Projectionist at The Aquarium, Great Yarmouth, his first job, which he really enjoyed.

I have included this rare photo of "the five brothers" all together at the same time, which was very unusual as it was often the case that three of us were at sea the same time.



Maurice Joel

Chapter 6

Changes

including
East Anglian School Band

1955 – 1981

The Changes Timetable

In 1955 consultations took place with the Ministry of Education on the educational desirability of separating the deaf from the partially hearing and the blind from the partially sighted. In 1956 the East Anglian School was reorganised to provide for partially sighted and deaf children only.

It was proposed to carry out a comprehensive modernisation scheme and for administrative convenience it was felt that a single authority should maintain the school with a Governing Body representing the participating authorities.



Children of Cambridge House 1950s

In 1959 the organisational changes were adopted. Great Yarmouth County Borough Council became the new maintaining Authority and the Governors representing the contracting authorities of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council, Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council, East Suffolk County Council and Norwich City Council were appointed.



Homemothers May 1957

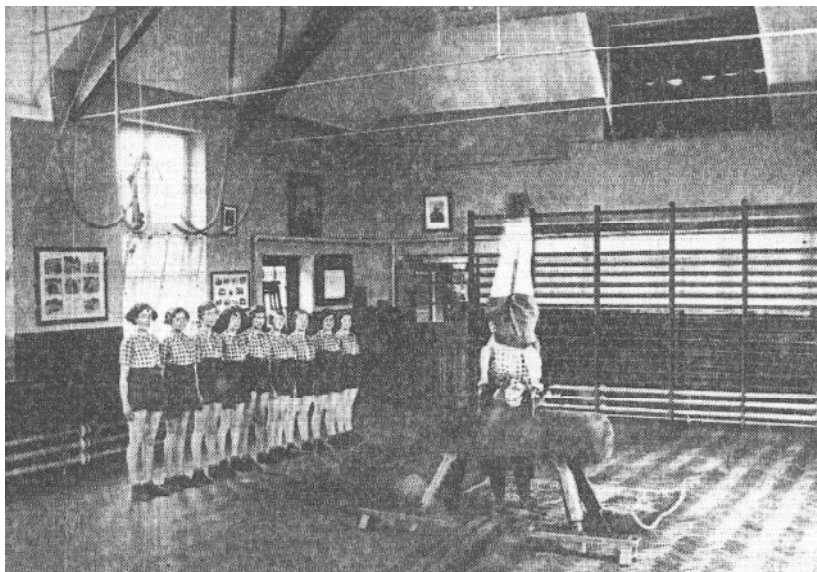
Back Row: Miss Norah Toll, Miss Ethel Watson, Miss Joan Websdale, Miss Mary Saunders, Miss Hilda Halfnight.

Middle Row: Miss Audrey Amor, Miss Nellie Cross, Miss Ethel Beare.

Bottom Row: Miss Dora Smallwood, Miss Margery Halfnight, Miss Edna Gurney, Miss Betty Ives.

The modernisation of the school took a little longer to become a reality. Major enhancements to many facilities were agreed and the work was started in January 1963 with the main contractor being H.A. Holmes and Sons. The total cost of the works was recorded as being £213,552 which saw improvements to the new main entrance, dormitories, staff rooms, gymnasium/assembly hall, classrooms, kitchens, boiler plant, sewing room, cloakrooms, teachers' accommodation, science rooms, library, television, art rooms and a new administrative wing. The school stayed open and functioned normally during the three years of building works.

The next two pictures illustrate the high standard of improvements that took place at the East Anglian School in this period.



This picture shows the school gymnasium in 1934, however it had not changed by 1963 when the new gymnasium shown in the next picture replaced it.



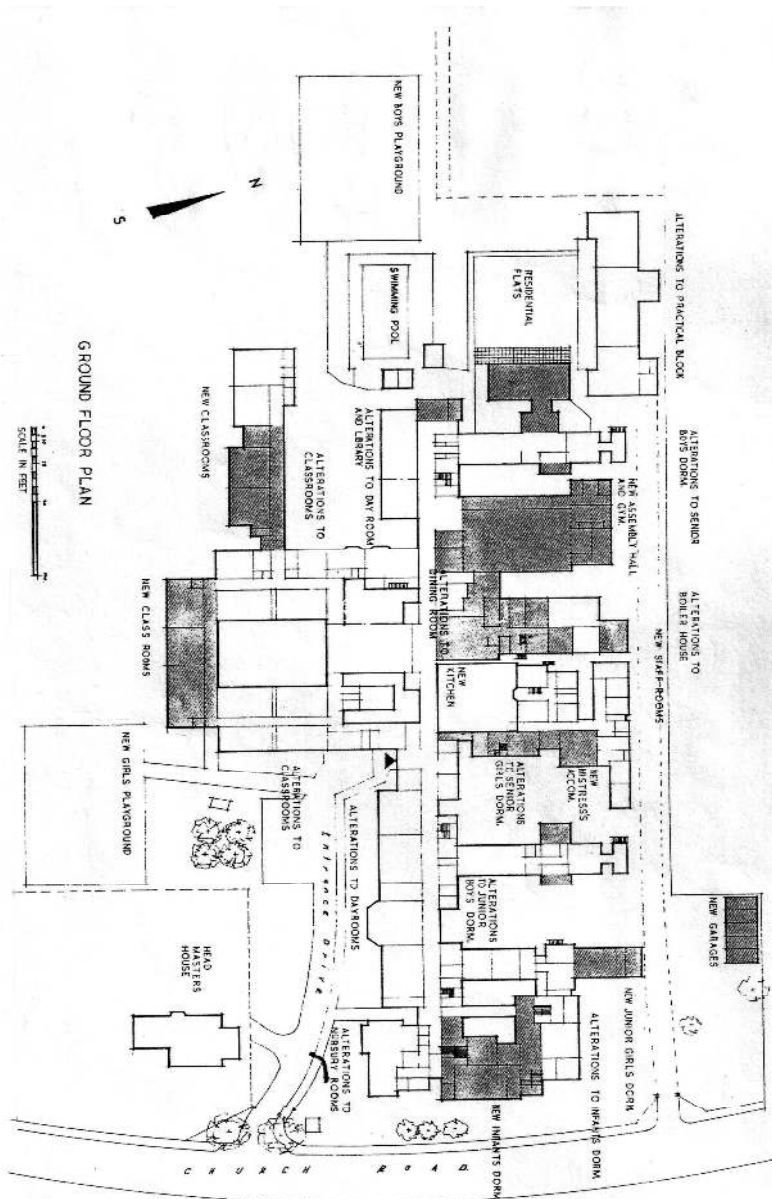
The new gymnasium as pictured in 1966 when it was opened

The School after 1966

The school now consisted of two departments, one for the Deaf and one for the Partially Sighted. The Department for the Partially Sighted had approximately 100 pupils on the roll and the Department for the Deaf, 70 pupils. These numbers were elastic within a framework of places for 163 boarding pupils and an unspecified number of day pupils.

The school was now organised on a self-governing house system. The younger pupils shared small dormitories, whereas the older pupils had their own individual rooms. Bed sitting rooms were provided for the staff, with some married accommodation.

Attached to the school was a nursery for resident and non-resident deaf pupils. There was also a peripatetic service to local partially hearing children run from the school.



The Plans (new extension shown in black)

The Department for the Deaf



The class rooms for the deaf had sound insulation added to all walls and ceilings with a floor finish of sheet rubber and were equipped with a complex installation of sound equipment which was designed to meet the requirements of each individual room. The group hearing aid desks and teacher's tables, which housed the sound control equipment, were specially designed for the East Anglian School. This specialist hearing equipment was subsequently adopted in other similar schools.

The age range of the children in this department was from 3 years old to 16 years old. They were encouraged to speak and the use of sign language was positively discouraged. Each child had a hearing aid fitted with an induction loop, which meant they could watch television and films. Full use was made of each child's residual hearing, however slight.

The Department for the Partially Sighted

In order to provide a superior learning environment, in the classrooms for the partially sighted the accent was on artificial lighting, simple colour schemes and specially designed desks to aid the children in their studies.

The age range of the children in this department was from 5 years old to 16 years old. Some children were, where appropriate fitted with contact lenses. The school had the services of a Consultant Ophthalmologist and a Consultant Otologist who regularly attended the children.

The opening of the new extension

The dignitaries listed below attended the opening of the new extension to the East Anglian School.

GREAT YARMOUTH COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN MR. H. D. MCGEE

CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS

MRS. R. MESSENGER, M.B.E., J.P.

CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER AND CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

D. G. FARROW, O.B.E., M.A.

HEADMASTER

A. SPENCER HOWARD

MATRON

Miss E. M. NICHOLAS

BOROUGH ARCHITECT

F. JACKSON, F.R.I.B.A.

CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES :

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND
ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL
EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
NORWICH CITY COUNCIL
NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, OM, DSO & Two Bars, DFC, who was the founder of the Cheshire Homes for the Disabled, formally opened the 'new' school on 20th September 1966. During his speech Leonard praised the various authorities for their co-operation with each other regarding the East Anglian School. He knew only too well it was easy to become absorbed in your own little world and start to see any proposed changes as a criticism of what you had been doing. He went on to say that pooling experiences for the benefit of the children was most important. Before he left the platform John Cremens, a pupil of E.A.S., handed Leonard a cheque for £12 12s for the Cheshire Homes from the staff and pupils of the school.

The school was now able to provide a broadly based education to all the pupils with a wide range of subjects, activities and crafts. There was access to the local College of Further Education and College of Art. Pupils were also encouraged to take courses leading to the Certificate of Secondary Education. Children at the age of 11 years were able to take the entrance examination leading to a grammar school education at the Mary Hare Grammar School for Deaf Children or at the Exhall Grange School for Partially Sighted children. Both these schools are still in existence today carrying on the same work.

Since the East Anglian School was principally residential, parents were encouraged to have their children home for the week-ends with those children over 13 years being able to travel unaccompanied to their homes, with parental permission. Teachers and the Home Staff provided a wide range of activities to entertain those who stayed at the school for weekends. Out of school activities included work for the Duke of Edinburgh

Award Scheme, camping, sailing and canoeing. The Norfolk Broads providing a base for these activities.

The teaching staff now comprised of the Headmaster, Twenty Teachers and Three Nursery Assistants. The Home Staff was made up of the Matron, a Sick Bay Sister, fourteen Homemothers and two Cadet Homemothers. The medical staff were, The Medical Officer, Principal School Medical Officer for Great Yarmouth, visiting G.P., visiting Ophthalmologist and visiting Otologist.

Staff Photograph



Back Row to Front Row - left to right

Fred Roll, George Hovell, Ieuan Jones and Harry Knights.

Connie McKender, Phyllis Taylor, Eileen Whitehead, Ann Hartley, Sheila Luxen and Myrtle Bristow.

Doreen Stokes, Joan Payne, Rosalyn King, A. Spencer Howard (Headmaster), Edith Bramwell, Joan Roll and Joyce Makelroy.

Ben Pitchers and Glyn Stokes.



Mr Spencer Howard retires from the school (1968).

When Mr A. Spencer Howard retired from the East Anglian School the Chief Education Officer, Mr. D. Farrow, described him as being generous of his time and commitment to the school.

There had been many developments during his period as headmaster. The facilities for boarders were second to none and had largely been planned by Mr Howard. It was pointed out that Mr Howard had to act as father to the children but without the help and commitment of his wife this would not have been possible. The incoming Headmaster Peter Johnstone made a presentation of gifts, which included a painting by Rowland Fisher to Mr Howard, from the pupils, staff and ex-pupils of the school.

Mr Howard recalled how he had been married from the school when he lived in the old domestic science bungalow. He went on to list the most memorable events while he was at the school: the evacuation in 1939 in three days to South Wales; the rebuilding of the school which was completed in 1966 and the closing of the blind school when it became unnecessary owing to the decrease in the incidence of blindness amongst children.



Peter Johnstone

When Mr Johnstone became headmaster in 1968 he took over a modern progressive school. The new extensions along with the latest teaching aids for the deaf and partially sighted meant the school could provide an even better education for the pupils.

The only other major development during this chapter of the school's history was a further extension to provide more spacious residential and recreational accommodation for the children.

Still central to the school's philosophy was the provision of life skills, so a regular activity for the children was preparing for life in the outside world. Posting a letter or crossing the street is done without much thought by a normal youngster but to a partially sighted or deaf child it is a major step on the road to independence. This was the type of training the pupils received to help them on the way to self-sufficiency when they left the school.

For the rest of this chapter I offer some more snippets as well as showing a selection of the out of school activities offered to the children. The chapter is completed with the history of the school's brass band.

More Snippets

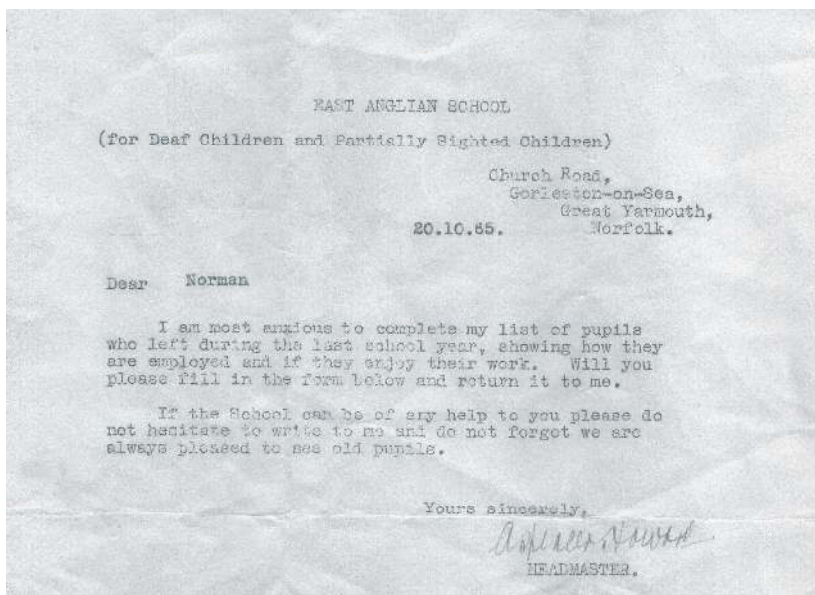
December 1961



Sandy Sandford, Anglia TV presenter, cutting the television shaped Christmas cake at the school Christmas Party.

The Matron and children wait in anticipation of the treat to come.
"Yummy"

October 1965



This is the copy of a letter sent to Norman Finbow. It shows that the school cared about what happened to its former pupils.

October 1969

The Ipswich branch of the Friends of the Deaf presented a Polaroid camera to the school. The camera was used to make a record of school activities and trips.

January 1971

Around 30 children from the school started taking horse-riding lessons at the Church Farm Riding School. The children had to pay for the lessons out of their own pocket money and could only afford fifteen minutes every week. The riding school were

very pleased with the above average progress the children made. The school were equally pleased with the boost to the confidence of the participating children. The children just thought it was marvellous fun.

November 1972

Two coach loads of children went to London. The elder children went to see the Tutankhamun exhibition whilst the younger children visited London Zoo.

April 1977

Four children from the school, William McKinley, Leslie Buzzell, Neville Spowage and Mark Whittle created a two-minute film to be shown during the EEC sponsored Farm Safety Week. They won their regional heat with a film about a small child getting into an unlocked shed and drinking weed killer.

1977



PC555 David Bullock inspects a fallen tree in Church Road blocking the road outside the school.



The School Bus

The children couldn't miss the bus, it was so easy to recognise, being as it was bright orange.

Ada Fueull (pictured) who ably assisted her husband Ted the driver, with school outings using the bus.

November 1978



Cleaning Ladies

Back Row: Betty, Margaret, Mary G, Brenda Leggett, Dulcia, Anne and Linda.

Front Row: Mary Brown, Mary, Joyce and Olive.

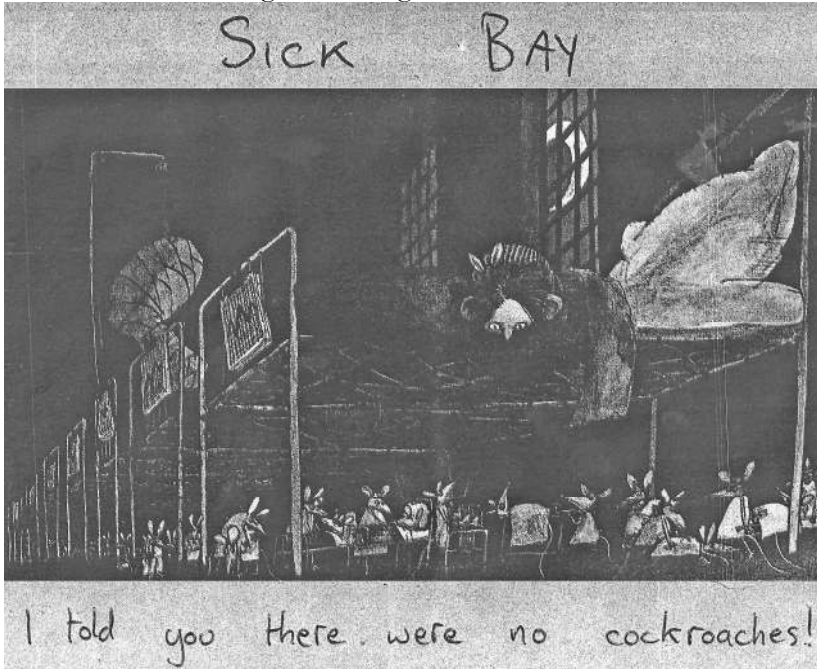
Can we do you now sir!

The School Invasion

On returning from their summer holidays it was not uncommon for the children to find the school infested with cockroaches. The cockroaches were everywhere, in their desks, cupboards etc. The senior boys invented a game "The Cockroach Run". They would catch as many cockroaches as possible, put them in a classroom and shut the door to prevent them from escaping. They would then release the cockroaches and see how many they could kill before they got out of the room.

Boys will be boys

From the School Magazine "Brighter Side of Life"



School Activities

Since most of the pupils at the school were boarders, life would have been pretty dull without school trips and activities to look forward to. The headmaster with the co-operation of all the staff made these a reality for the children.

With the advent of the 1970's came the revolution in personal transport. As we know car ownership almost became a right and many schools were acquiring mini-buses. This made it easier to plan longer school trips as the means of transporting the children around was always at hand. Typical trips and activities are shown in pictures below.

Thetford Forest 1970



Watch out he's got an axe ... now he's got wood



"Snorkers Good Oh"

Thetford Forest 1970 (cont.)



Early morning camping rituals never change



Kerplush !! Stupid Boys

Summer Fete 1970



"Take me to the Popcorn Stand. Pronto"

Summer Fete 1970 (cont.)



"Be on your best behaviour, they're coming"

Plays Early 80's



"Come on boys liven it up a bit"



"No, you ask what's the favourite for the 2:30 at Ascot"

Basketball early 80's



Super Heroes vs. The School

Summer Camp early 80's



"Isn't 11 o'clock a bit early to get up?"



"Is he getting in or out of that canoe?"

Christmas scenes early 80's



Trips to France

During the 1970's the school started to embark upon trips to France for the older pupils. These early trips were exclusively for members of the School Brass Band. Later, these trips were extended to all the older pupils.

France 1984



France 1984 (cont.)



Front Entrance to the school



Rear entrance to the school

Picture showing size of 'old type' hearing aids



East Anglian School Brass Band

1973 to 1985

"and beyond!"

The photograph below shows the original Great Yarmouth Silver Band, which was later to become the Holmes Quest Brass Band. Horace Godfrey was Bandmaster and his son Colin, who is in the white jacket, later succeeded him. Derek Hacon became Deputy Bandmaster. Many members in this photograph were instrumental (excuse the pun) in the formation of the East Anglian School Brass Band.



The East Anglian School Brass Band was formed in 1973 under the direction of School Teacher Colin Godfrey and Peripatetic (Travelling) Music Teacher Derek Hacon. Colin, having had a brass banding history thought it would be a wonderful idea for partially sighted children at the school to learn musical skills and to perform as a group. The band grew in size with the help of other local children, who were enlisted by Derek Hacon, who actually taught music at most of the schools in the area. Colin Godfrey's drive, enthusiasm and dedication impacted on so many pupils' lives at the time, with many continuing to this day to be involved in Brass Band music.

Partial Brass

Played by the East Anglian School Brass Band



Sleeve Notes

The making of this record in 1975 came very soon after a very successful television appearance on BBC's "Look East". The music, which the band played on that broadcast, is featured on this record.

Since the band was formed some two years ago it has grown in size, ability and repertoire. Over the past year the band has

performed over forty engagements as far away as Sherringham. It has made a big impact locally, particularly when playing for “over 60’s”, club dances.

It is thought that the East Anglian School Band is one of the very few, and possibly the only Partially Sighted School Brass Band in England. It is with this in mind that the band presents a small programme of music for your enjoyment.

The Band Members

Conductor	Horace Godfrey
Principle Cornet	Derek Hacon
Solo Cornets	Alan Davies
	Melvin Rowland
Repiano Cornets	Christine Cunningham
	Neville Spowage
2nd Cornet	Alan Reeson
	Joseph Smith
Solo Horn	Mark Fulcher
Solo Trombone	Alan Carlin
2nd Trombone	Andre Chaplin
Solo Euphonium	Colin Godfrey (Bandmaster)
2 nd Euphonium	Michael Hollis
Eb Bass	Geraint Evans
Percussion	Peter Kitson

Side One:

North Star, Trumpet Voluntary, Sing with the band, Plaisir D’Amour, Welsh Cameo and Brass Band Boogie.

Side Two:

Vermont, Amazing Grace, Dixie, Oliver, Deep Harmony and Lelaware

The East Anglian School Band in 1976

This picture was taken at a concert held at the Alderman Leach School, Gorleston. The gymnasium at the East Anglian School where concerts were generally held was not available.



Back Row (l to r) Alan Reeson, Neville Spowage, Alan Carlin, Andrew Chaplin, Michael Hollis, and Peter Kitson.

Middle Row (l to r) Melvin Rowland (Non Pupil), Geraint Evans, Horace Godfrey (Conductor), Colin Godfrey (Bandmaster) and Christine Cunningham (Non Pupil).

Front Row (l to r) Unknown, Christopher Morris.

A typical nights entertainment from
the East Anglian School Brass Band

East

Anglian

School

presents a

BRASS BAND

CONCERT

by the

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL BAND

at

ALDERMAN LEACH SCHOOL APRIL 3rd 76

7:30pm.

Programme of Music

Le Reve Passe	- Krier
Barcarolle	- Offenbach
Euphonium Solo "The Iceberg"	- Garden
Soloist - Colin Godfrey	
Lily the Pink	- arr. Siebert
Mood Indigo	- Ellington
Trio - Duglers' Holiday	- Anderson
1st Trumpet - Derek Hacon	
2nd Trumpet - Christine Cunningham	
Valve Trombone - Bob Godfrey	
Moonlight Serenade	- Miller
Paint Your Wagon	- Lerner/Loewe
Cornet Solo - Andante	- Hayden
Soloist - Neville Spowage	
Slaidburn	- W. Rimmer
Hello Dolly	- Herman

INTERVAL 15 minutes -

Imperial Echoes	- Safroni
Whispering Brass	- Haysom
Cornet Duet - Playmates	- arr. Hacon
1st - Derek Hacon	
2nd - Melvin Rowland	
Cornet Solo "The Paragon"	- Sutton
Soloist - Melvin Rowland	
American Patrol	- Meacham
Communityland	- arr. Stodden
Nabuccodonosor	- Verdi
Trombone Solo - The Dove	- Trad. arr.
Soloist Andrew Chaplin	
Trombone Trio - The Bold Gendarmes	- Offenbach
1st Trombone - Alan Carlin	
2nd Trombone - Andrew Chaplin	
3rd Trombone - David Bailey	
Viva Espana	- arr. Fraser.

- Queen -

The Band wishes to thank all those people who
have helped with the production of this Concert.

BAND

Solo Cornet	Derek Hacon Melvin Rowland Christine Cunningham
Repiano	Neville Spowage
2nd Cornet	Alan Reeson Stuart Philpott
3rd Cornet	Joseph Smith
Tenor Horn	Christopher Morris
1st Trombone	Andrew Chaplin Alan Carlin
2nd Trombone	David Bailey
1st Baritone	Bob Godfrey
2nd Baritone	Michael Hollis
Euphonium and Bandmaster	Colin Godfrey
Eb Bass	David Stimpson Geraint Evans
Percussion	Peter Kitson
Piano	Janet Young
Conductor	Horace Godfrey

Angular Brass

Played by the East Anglian School Brass Band



The second record, Angular Brass, made by the band in March/April 1978, is a selection of the most popular pieces of music played at the Band's concerts during the last six months.

Side One:

A Swinging Safari, Strand on the Green, Strawberry Fair, Best of the Seekers, Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines.

Side Two:

Slaidburn, Chanson d'Amour, Hootnanny, Grand March-Tannhauser, Black and White Minstrel Selection.

The Band Members

Bandmaster	Colin Godfrey B.A.
Conductor	Horace Godfrey
Recording Engineer	Ron Travers
Solo Cornets	Melvon Rowland, Stuart Philpott, Nicholas Ball
Repiano Cornet	Brian Mercer
Flugel Horns	John Marsh, Maurice Green
2nd/3rd Cornets	Joseph Smith David Beckett
Tenor Horns	Derek Hacon Josephine Kilpatrick
Baritones	Joe Green, Michael Hollis
Euphonium	Colin Godfrey
Trombones	Robin Tebbutt, Derek Iles
Eb Basses	David Stimpson, Ron Larkins
Percussion	Peter Kitson, Brian Pilgrim

It was hoped that every taste in music was catered for on this record and that it will serve as an aid to easy listening of popular brass band music.

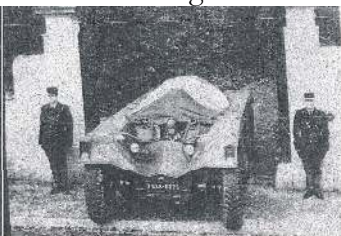
In May 1978 the band achieved its first major competitive success in the Norfolk County Music Festival, gaining a first class certificate in the Advanced Brass Band Class. The test piece was "Strand on the Green" by Kenneth Platts, This was also chosen as the test piece for the Butlins qualifying rounds of the National Youth Championships.

After the first record, which was produced in 1975, the band made two visits to Rambouillet (France) in 1977 and 1978. On the first occasion it had the honour of representing Great Yarmouth at the prestigious Fete du Muguet where the band entertained ambassadors from the EEC Headquarters. The band has also made a further TV appearance in the Anglia TV series featured in the Jubilee programme on Youth in the service of the Community and this was viewed by the Prince of Wales who commended the series.

The trips to France as recorded in the School Magazine



Mr Godfrey took the Band to France



but came back after a couple of concerts



French Hospitals needed every available hearing expert

From the School Magazine - Bright Side of Life

Although the East Anglian School Band, like the School itself, no longer exists, the legacy lives on. When the School closed in 1985 the band had to adapt and change direction to survive. It went through several changes of name and personnel. Former pupils who boarded at the school, were no longer able to play so the band had to scour local schools to find players to fill the gaps.

The East Anglian School Brass Band lives on in a small way today as "Great Yarmouth Brass". Although only one remaining ex-East Anglian School pupil (David Stimpson) still plays in the band, the band is thriving with over 26 senior members and a Youth Band. It plays concerts and contests throughout the year.



Colin Godfrey (Bottom then clockwise) David Stimpson Ray Welch and Derek Hacon.

Celebrating after the band was awarded a Lottery grant to buy new instruments.

Author's Note

I used to play the Double Bass and I remember playing with some of the above, it was always great fun

Could there be a better epitaph to the East Anglian School itself; from humble beginnings, fired by the enthusiasm and dedication of its teachers and pupils the East Anglian School Brass Band has touched many lives and will continue to do so in the future through "Great Yarmouth Brass". Entertainment and charity work remaining central to the bands philosophy.



Holmes Quest Holdings Band at Cliff Park School 1990-91
(eventually becoming)
Great Yarmouth Brass



Great Yarmouth



Brass



1973 - 2013

*Sectional Winners
East Anglian Brass Band
Association
Entertainment Contest
2012 and 2013*

*Section 4 Finalists
National Brass Band
Championships
of Great Britain
2013*

40th
Anniversary
Concert

St. Nicholas Minster
Saturday 6th July 2013

Thank you for supporting Great Yarmouth Brass,
your kind support has enabled us to help
numerous charities and good causes over the
years and your continued support means we can
go on helping those who need it most.

Programme

From the conception of an idea in 1973 that Colin Godfrey had to start the E.A.S. Brass Band it has grown to become Great Yarmouth Brass who have recently performed their 40th Anniversary Concert at St. Nicholas Minster, Great Yarmouth.



Great Yarmouth Brass at the Gorleston Bandstand July 2013



Tom Poulson is carrying on the high standards set by Yarmouth Brass. He has been an active member of Great Yarmouth Brass junior and senior bands and has been the principal cornet of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

In September 2013 Tom reached new heights by taking two top prizes at the Aeolus Wind Competition in Dusseldorf Germany. He had to compete against 70 other players from all over the world.

Chapter 7

1981 onwards

The End of the School

Demolition and Rebuilding

A changing role for E.A.S.

In 1981 the East Anglian School started to admit "Delicate" children who, for reasons of health, required to be educated in a school that could provide the specialist help and support they needed. The School changed its name to Deaf and Partially Sighted/Delicate Children to reflect it's new direction.

Also in 1981, the school received an endorsement to its continuing commitment to the teaching of the deaf, when the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children presented the school with £600 worth of musical instruments for the use of deaf pupils. It may seem odd that deaf children were learning to play musical instruments but of course Ludwig Van Beethoven, who was one of the greatest composers the world has ever seen, was himself deaf in later life.

As always the school was moving forward keeping abreast of the times and latest thinking when dealing with the handicapped and as a result in September 1982 the E.A.S. opened Gorleston House. This led to a third and final change of school name to Deaf and Partially Sighted /Delicate/Handicapped Children. This house was designed specifically for handicapped students aged 16+ with the object of assisting the development of their education, bearing in mind their very special needs. Pupils were to attend courses at Great Yarmouth College of Further Education and Norwich City College. The pupils could attend a range of courses provided by these Colleges or the school based Work, Life and Social Skills Course.

The function of Gorleston House was threefold:

1. To provide residential accommodation for pupils with special educational needs
2. To provide tutorial support from specialist teachers.
3. To provide opportunities for developing independence.



Scenes from Gorleston House





Quite apart from the obvious benefits of living in a caring residential establishment, the pupils received guidance and counselling on both a formal and informal basis. Much of the help was necessarily related to overcoming

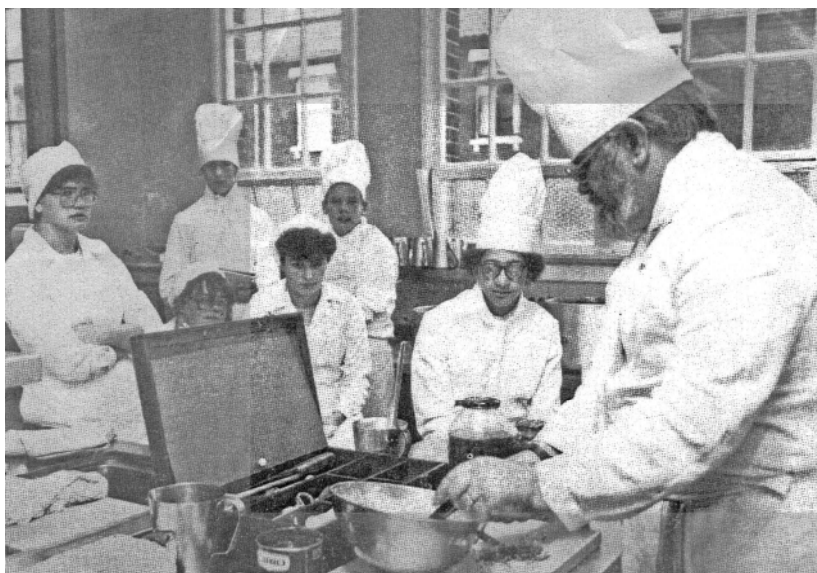
specific problems, which arose as a result of a particular handicap whether these problems were practical or emotional.

The overall aim was to increase the pupils' awareness of the practical and emotional issues they would meet when they left the school and to encourage them to look at their future critically, realistically and enthusiastically.



The accommodation in the hostel comprised single, two and three bedded rooms, ample toilet, bath and shower facilities, television lounge, dining area, classrooms, games room and a fully equipped kitchen. The

building was redesigned to cater for pupils with a wide range of special needs, both physical and sensory. Pupils were required to accept a measure of responsibility for cooking, washing of clothes, cleaning and general tidiness. Care staff provided guidance to the pupils in the full range of domestic needs. Gorleston House was open on a seven day basis during term time only.



East Anglian School pupils at Great Yarmouth C.O.F.E.



Closure of school agreed

The closure of the East Anglian School, Gorleston, for handicapped children was supported yesterday by Norfolk County councillors.

The school, which caters for children from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Essex, will close in July next year, a sub-committee agreed.

"The staff have agreed to think it is agreed that the school will have to close," said Mrs. Toni Dutton.

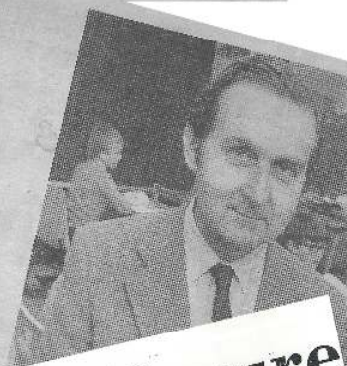
E.A. School deaf
dept. may close



WHERE DO THE
CHILDREN GO?

GOVERNORS
SADDENED
BY DECISION

School
closure
worries



Deaf
school
told
'sorry'

School closure
threat worries
parents

worried parents
make of their

will benefit provided the
is done properly and
necessary

The rumours of closure start

The first indications of the end of the East Anglian School came with the threat of closure of the deaf unit in late 1982, as reported by the local press.

The headmaster at the time, Mr. Peter Johnstone, stated that one of the reasons for the threat of closure was the fact that the previous 10 years had seen the number of deaf children at the school fall from 90 to 33. This was mainly due to the fact that deaf children were being integrated into mainstream education, coupled with earlier detection and treatment of deafness.

Norfolk County Council were predicting a roll call of 18 deaf pupils by 1984 and because of the wide age and ability range, the need to provide a broader spectrum of courses for diminishing numbers was a growing strain on resources, thereby making the deaf unit "educationally non-viable".

Mr. Johnstone was reported at the time saying, "other special schools across the country were also facing the same problem. Last year, a school for delicate children in North Norfolk closed, and this category was added to the deaf and partially-sighted departments at the East Anglian School in an attempt to keep numbers up". However Mr Johnstone did express concern, that without proper support in mainstream schools the education of these children would suffer and just as important their progress towards becoming self sufficient in later life would also suffer.

The four local authorities of Norfolk, Essex, Cambridge and Suffolk saw no prospect of sending more deaf pupils to the school.

The Deaf unit closed in Summer 1984 and was replaced by new units in Thorpe St. Andrew High School Norwich and Loddon School.

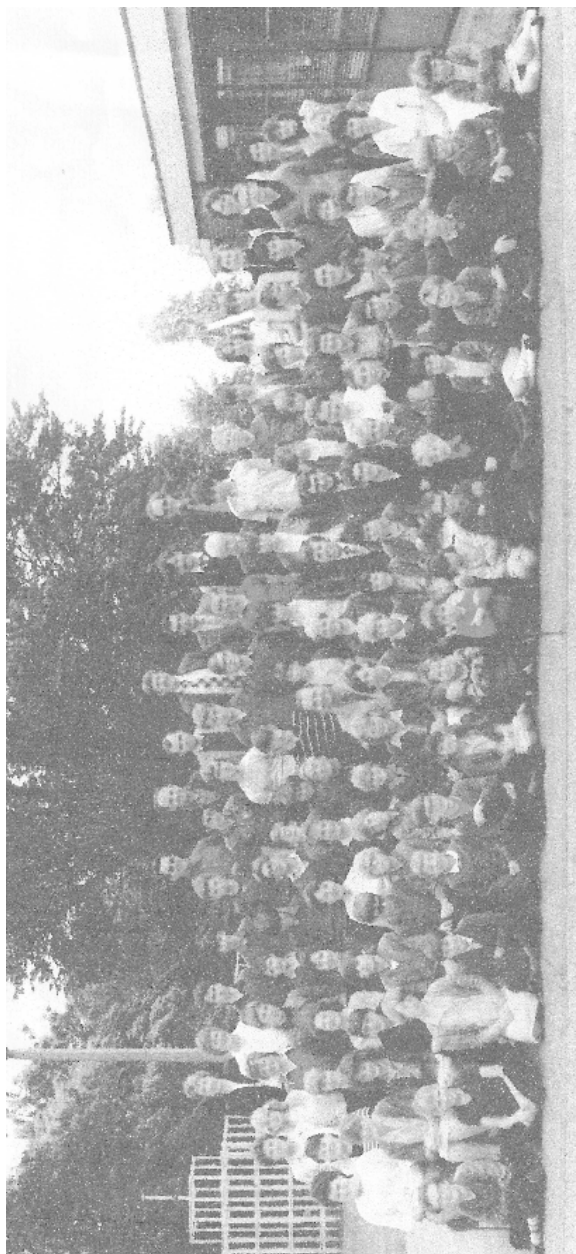
Although this was a sad time for The East Anglian School we must keep in sight that, thanks to better health and earlier diagnosis of these types of problems, there were fewer children needing the specialist attention of these schools. The changes made in The Education Act in April 1983 meant all handicapped children, where possible, were to receive education in mainstream schools. This led to the inevitable decision by the Governors of Gorleston East Anglian School to announce, with great regret, that they were forced to recommend the closure of the school in July 1985.

Suffolk County Education Department made the point that for a school catering for such a wide age range, at least 120 pupils were required to justify the appointment of sufficient staff to offer a full curriculum. Their detailed investigation of the anticipated numbers showed that by 1984 there would be about 60 pupils only 11 of which would be from Suffolk.

The four participating County Councils accepted the recommendation.

As one would expect this announcement was met with great dismay and many protestations from parents of pupils and the many, very dedicated, members of staff, but to no avail. A spokesman for Norfolk's County Education Department praised the school for all its achievements, and assured parents and staff they would be fully involved in deciding what arrangements would be made for the children's education elsewhere.

The day of closure came soon enough. Mr Johnstone, headmaster said the children had been very good and that the staff had tried to keep things on an even keel until the last moment. He thought the children were looking forward to a new life in other schools and some of their teachers would be with them so they would at least know someone. Mr Johnstone explained that of the twenty



The last school Photograph taken in 1984

eight Norfolk children, the majority would be going to normal schools near their homes and the others would also be going to ordinary schools where special units had been set up to cater for them. There were now three support units for the visually handicapped in Norwich attached to mainstream schools. A small number of children were found places in Parkside and the Clare School, Norwich which were specialist schools where they could attend on a daily basis. He went on to say that the eight teachers and some of the other staff at the school had been offered other jobs or had retired, some early. Mr Johnstone who had been the headmaster since 1968 had decided to take early retirement.

This was not the complete end of the school as those children who were in their last year were able to stay on to complete this last year and take any examinations for which they had studied. Without this concession the dislocation at this crucial time for them might have meant some pupils leaving school without any qualifications.

The picture below shows the East Anglian School final farewell reunion. Mary Saunders (left) Mr Johnstone (3rd left) received their retirement cheques from Michael Edwards (County Education Officer) and Marjorie White (Governor).



The former pupils of the school had been staging annual reunions at the school for many years but with the closure of the

school these were no longer possible. Ted Herbert sounded out the ex-pupils at the final reunion and found that many were interested in carrying on, so that's what they have done. They still have their reunions today (2013), many of which have been held at the Hotel Victoria in Great Yarmouth. (see appendix5) As Ted Herbert said, "Although the school may be dead - its ex-pupils and ex-staff are alive and kicking very nicely, thank you".



School finished for another day

After closure - what next?

Now the school was closed, there were a number of ideas floated on what to do with the premises. Most of the ideas were of an educational nature but county council officials had not ruled out using the site for other purposes.

The most vaunted idea at the time was to relocate Stradbroke and Wroughton First Schools to the site. The costings were attractive. A report carried out by the Norfolk County Council concluded

that to convert the East Anglian School for use as a First School would be £375,000 and a new school would cost £825,000.

What actually happened was the School was left to decay for the next five years before a decision was taken on its future. There was continued vandalism during this period with no apparent action being taken to curb youngsters gaining admission to the site.



Final Staff photograph 1984

When work started on clearing the site in 1990 the situation became much worse. Sub-Officer Graham Browne recalled how the fire brigade were summoned out on a regular basis to deal with the fires deliberately started on the site. During this stage it appears there was a lot of dissatisfaction in how things were being managed. As with these situations all the parties involved spent a lot of time talking about the problems and who was responsible; did nothing effective until one day the demolition was complete. - Problem Solved!



Mr McGill who took these photographs of the demolition is seen picking his way through the rubble





A group of ex-pupils survey the site after the demolition (1990)

Finally - what was next?

The decision on what was to happen to the site of the East Anglian School was taken by Norfolk County Council, the owners of the land, in 1995.



The site was to be sold as a residential development and the County Council gave themselves outline planning permission to carry out this proposal. As reported in the Yarmouth Mercury at the time, Great Yarmouth Borough Council had no

objections to this plan provided the (sycamore) trees on the site were protected and provision be made for an access point to a play area and open space. I believe there is still a restriction order

on these trees, whereby the residents would have to go to the Council to purchase them if they wanted to cut any of them down. I believe the residents still have to maintain them by all 'chipping in' and having them pruned and tended every so often. But as I said the sycamore trees are still there for all to see.

The Borough Council's requests were met, a play area and an



open space was incorporated into the housing estate's design. The park was laid out by the developers and local Councillor Jack Barnes assisted by two pupils of Peterhead School are seen here planting the last trees which were a Mountain

Ash, a Lime tree and five beech trees to mark the opening of the 4.5 acre park next to Colomb Road.



The East Anglian School playing field was bought by the Department of Transport to replace Victoria Road Park, which was destroyed to make way for the Gorleston relief road. Two

months was spent laying the footpaths, installing benches and planting trees, shrubs, crocus, bluebell and narcissus bulbs.



The access road to the new estate was properly named East Anglian Way thus commemorating the name of the school that once graced this site.

Building work starts



The footings are dug

The first house to be built was not really a house but a Doctor's Surgery, which is still in the same place today (2013), still serving the local community.

The fate of the Air raid Shelters



Pictures of the air raid shelters above and below ground before they were demolished and filled in.



The actual removal of the air raid shelters was a considerable operation watched and recorded by Reg Day who lived next door. Reg and Lucy Day would have liked to turn the air raid shelter into an underground garage and wine cellar, however it

was not to be. The developer had other ideas. Five homes were built instead. Hard luck Reg and Lucy with the nearly underground garage and wine cellar.

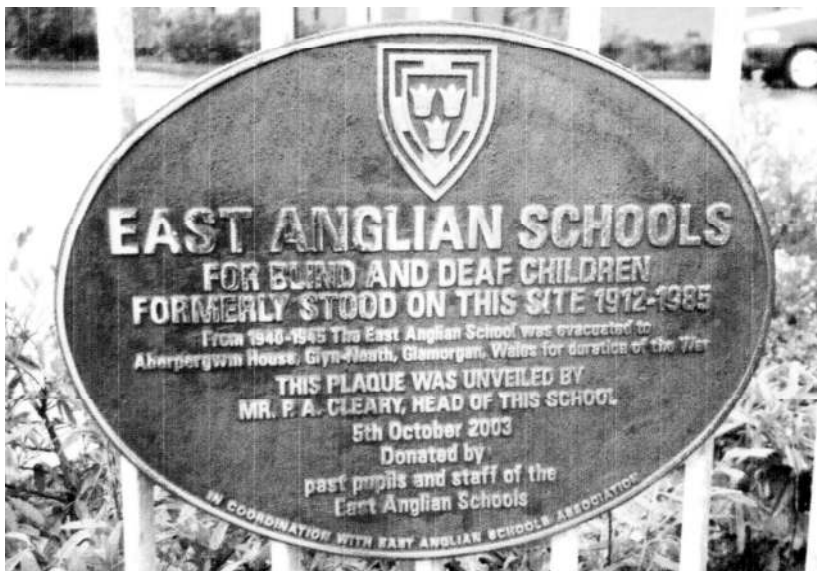


Reg and Lucy's bungalow being built and a picture of them outside as it is now.



St Mary's Catholic School

When the East Anglian School closed it was not envisaged that another school would be opened in the area but that is exactly what happened. St Mary's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is located in East Anglian Way and on its railings is a commemorative plaque dedicated to the East Anglian School.



The unveiling of the bronze plaque, which was paid for by the ex-pupils and ex-staff of the East Anglian School, at St Mary's School on a wet and windy October in 2003.



1. Author shaking hands with Michael Phillips an ex-pupil of E.A.S. and resident of the East Anglian Estate. It was fitting that Michael was present at the E.A.S. celebration.

2. Author being interviewed by Lucy Clapham of the Great Yarmouth Mercury

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Unveiling the Plaque on the Headmaster's House (10/12/2012)



My smile says it all, "Job Done, The Full Circle!"

A TEACHING HAVEN by Joan Lobban

Church Road School for the deaf, dumb and blind,
Where hopes rose high in parents' mind.
Children came from far and wide,
To blossom, study and reside.

Staff so special and so caring,
Taught sign language, life and sharing.
The children joined in local groups,
To school also opened to local folks.

We ran and raced in their fields together,
Swam in their swimming pool in summer weather.
A great bond between us when we were young,
Despite their "problems" we all had fun.

Saturday morning they'd walk down the High Street,
Pocket money ready to spend on a nice treat.
People passed them with a smile,
Gorlestonians felt protective of them all the while.

Two by two and hand in hand,
Such a happy little band.
Sightless eyes, speechless lips,
Talking through their finger tips.

The school finally fell out of date,
Unfortunately replaced by a housing estate.
But there are many people out in the world,
Who, thanks to this great school, their lives unfurled.

This beautiful poem by Joan fully sums up how I feel about the school, and the dedication and professionalism of the staff that made it work. **Maurice Joel**

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Headmasters' Obituaries

Edward Evans 1883 - 1960



Born in Manchester on January 11th 1883 of Welsh parents, he was educated at Llanelli Elementary and Science Schools.

For the first 40 years of his career he was a teacher, first at an elementary school in a slum district of North London, then at Linden Lodge Special School for the Blind, and later at the Old Kent Road School for the Deaf.

He was Headmaster and Superintendent of the East Anglian School for Blind and Deaf Children at Gorleston from 1928 to 1943. He held special diplomas in both blind and deaf teaching and was one of the founders of the Association of Teachers of the Blind, later to become its chairman. He was also chairman of the College of Teachers of the Deaf. He had also been secretary of the National Institute for the Deaf and president of the National Deaf-Blind Helpers League.

Whilst at Gorleston Mr Evans was elected to Great Yarmouth Town Council. He remained a Councillor until 1943 when he left the town to become deputy secretary of the National Institute for

the Blind. He was the composer of the manual alphabet for the deaf and blind.

In 1945 Mr Evans entered national politics and was elected the Member of Parliament for Lowestoft becoming the constituencies first Labour M.P. He held the seat until 1959, being defeated by the Conservative candidate, Jim Prior.

During his time in Parliament he played an influential part in the drafting of the 1948 National Assistance Act, which related to handicapped persons. In 1949 he was appointed by the Minister of Health as chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Health and Welfare of Handicapped Persons. In the same year he was created C.B.E. for his public services.

He was a respected and authoritative speaker on issues related to fishing and concerned himself with steps to check East Coast erosion. Likewise he commanded the attention of both sides of the House when he rose to speak on the welfare of the handicapped.

He wrote "A Manual Alphabet for the Deaf-Blind" and edited Braille Schools magazine

Edward Evans was married in 1915 to Victoria Muir, who sadly passed away in 1953. They had two sons.

Mr Edward Evans died on 30 March 1960 aged 77 years.

Reginald Gough 1891 - 1973

Mr Reginald Gough who was headmaster and superintendent of the East Anglian School for Partially Sighted and Deaf Children at Gorleston for ten years from 1943, died at Northgate Hospital, Great Yarmouth. He was 82 years old. He joined the East Anglian School in 1921 and was there until his retirement in 1953.

Mr Gough was educated at New College School, Oxford. He then went to Culham Training College and started his teaching career in 1911 at the School for Blind and Deaf Children located at Stoke. From 1913-21 he was at the Freeman's School, Wellingborough. During the First World War he served in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. He was wounded whilst fighting in France in 1915, commissioned in 1917, and taken prisoner in March 1918.

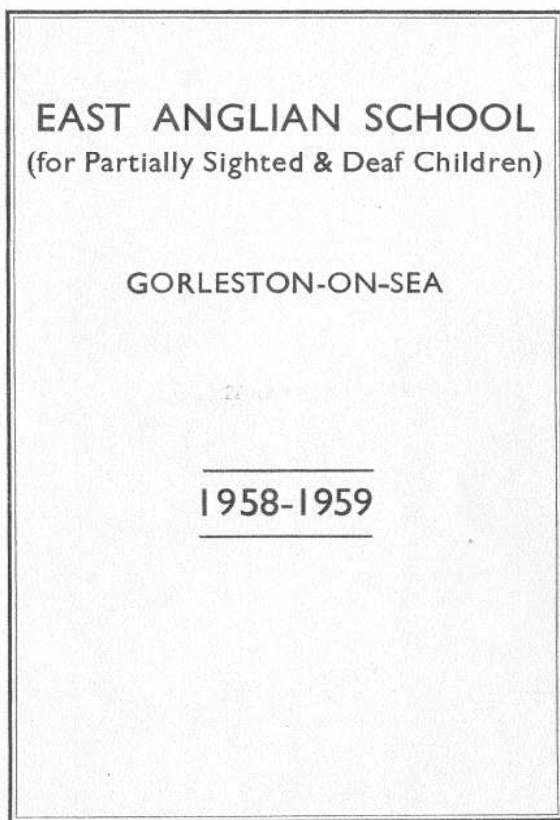
Mr Gough had an interest in many activities in Great Yarmouth. He had been chairman of the Yarmouth and Gorleston Deaf Welfare Council. He served on the Yarmouth and Gorleston National Savings Committee for which he received the British Empire Medal, in 1962.

Mr Gough served in various capacities at the local Conservative Club, Gorleston Central Tennis Club, Yarmouth Bowling Club and Winter Garden Dance Club. He also had a keen interest in Scouting. Reginald Gough's burial service was held at St. Mary's Church, Southtown, Great Yarmouth where he had been a chorister for over fifty years.

Appendix 2

During my researches I came upon the following Annual Report for 1958/9, which, gives an insight into a typical year at the school.

Maurice Joel



JOHN BUCKLE (PRINTERS) LTD., THEATRE PLAIN, GT. YARMOUTH

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL

FOR PARTIALLY SIGHTED AND DEAF CHILDREN

Annual Report 1958-1959

GOVERNORS

Name	Authority Represented
Mrs. K. M. Adlington, Chairman	Great Yarmouth
Mr. H. Moore, Deputy Chairman	Norfolk
Dr. R. French	Cambridgeshire
Rev. B. C. Cann	Essex
Mrs. L. Fallaize	"
Mrs. D. M. Sargeant (to 30th September, 1958)	"
Mrs. L. A. Irons (from 1st October, 1958)	"
Mr. J. E. Tabor	"
Brigadier J. T. de H. Vaizey	"
Mr. J. S. Beddows	East Suffolk
Miss J. M. Mann	"
Mrs. R. Messenger	"
Mr. L. R. Missen	"
Mr. D. G. Farrow	Great Yarmouth
Mr. J. H. Crane	Isle of Ely
Mr. H. Tash	"
Mr. J. R. Bensley	Norfolk
Mr. J. C. Laws (to 31st December, 1958)	"
Mr. A. V. Hilton (from 1st January, 1959)	"
Dr. F. Lincoln Ralphs	"
Mr. R. J. More	"
Mr. J. W. Beeson	Norwich
Mr. H. Frazer	"
Mrs. M. M. Frazer	"
Mrs. R. E. Hardy (to 30th September, 1958)	"
Mr. H. Perry (from 1st October, 1958)	"
Mr. H. J. Ward	"

OFFICERS

V. E. A. Marwood, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc. ...	Medical Officer
P. J. L. Hunter, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.	Ophthalmic Surgeon
W. Nicholls, L.D.S., R.C.S.	Dental Surgeon
B. Adlington, F.R.C.S.	Aural Surgeon
G. K. McKee, F.R.C.S.	Orthopaedic Surgeon
G. J. Wroughton ...	Clerk to the Governors
Mrs. R. K. Hindes ...	Assistant Clerk

STAFF

HEADMASTER : A. Spencer Howard

DEPUTY HEADMASTER : H. W. Knights

TEACHING STAFF :

Teachers of the Deaf:

Miss E. Bramwell, B.A.
Miss M. P. Bristow
Mr. H. Knights
Miss C. E. Mackender
Miss E. M. Phillips
Mr. B. Pitchers
Mr. F. Roll
Mr. G. Stokes
Miss P. Taylor
Mrs. J. Brown

Teachers of the Partially Sighted :

Mr. G. Hovell
Mr. W. Martin
Mrs. J. Payne
Mrs. E. Whitehead
Mrs. J. Young, L.R.A.M.,
A.R.C.M. (Pianoforte)
Miss E. M. Chidde

Teachers to both Departments:

DRESSMAKING	Miss H. Halfnight
GARDENING	Mr. H. Websdale
NEEDLEWORK	Mrs. D. Stokes
PHYSICAL TRAINING	Miss M. Lewis

HOMES AND DOMESTIC STAFF :

MATRON : Miss E. M. Nicholas, S.R.N.

SICK BAY RESIDENT NURSE	Miss G. M. Lane, S.R.N.
SENIOR HOME MOTHER	Miss E. Watson
HEAD COOK	Mrs. M. Preston
HEAD DRESSMAKER	Miss H. Halfnight
CARETAKER AND GARDENER	Mr. H. Websdale

HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31st July, 1959.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of the School Year, July, 1959, there were 166 pupils on the roll from the following Authorities:—

CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES

	Guaranteed Number	Number On Roll
Cambridgeshire	4	5
East Suffolk	14	23
Essex	35	31
Isle of Ely	5	9
Norfolk	45	32
Norwich	35	17
Great Yarmouth	12	9
	150	116

NON-CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES

Grimsby	3
Wiltshire	1
Nottingham	1
East Ham	1
Ipswich	4
Gateshead	1
Stoke-on-Trent	1
Middlesex	6
Leicestershire	3
West Suffolk	7
Lincolnshire (Kesteven)	2
Middlesborough	1
Buckinghamshire	3
Northamptonshire	2
Derbyshire	2
Lincolnshire (Lindsey)	6
Nottinghamshire	1
Kent	3
Northumberland	1
Lincolnshire (Holland)	1

50

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL

When the School changed its function in September, 1956 it was anticipated that there would be a drop in the number of pupils but that the School would build up to 100 in the School for the Deaf and 60 in the School for the Partially Sighted and the alterations to the buildings were designed with accommodation for 160 pupils in mind. The School for the Partially Sighted has built up to 80 pupils and the School for the Deaf has dropped to 80 pupils. The entry to the School for the Deaf, as was anticipated has been mainly through the nursery and the indications are that the School will build up slowly from now on.

For three weeks during the summer holidays the premises were occupied by a house party from the Covenanters Union, a youth organisation with a religious background.

During the school year the only change on the teaching staff was the resignation of Mrs. J. Brown, as non-resident teacher of the Deaf.

There were 6 Deaf and 3 Partially Sighted leavers during the year who, with the help of the Youth Employment Service were placed in suitable employment.

During the year one pupil in the School for the Deaf was re-classified as Partially Deaf and transferred to a School for the Partially Deaf.

In the School for the Partially Sighted five pupils were found to be no longer in need of Special Educational Treatment and were transferred to ordinary schools. Three were re-classified as blind and transferred to Schools for the Blind and two were admitted from Schools for the Blind.

D. Davidson, a former deaf pupil at this School has passed the G.C.E. Examination (O Level) in Geometrical Drawing (Engineering) and T. Ruane, a former blind pupil in English Literature and English Language (O Level).

During the past year the School has maintained its contacts with other Schools in the district in the athletic and sporting fields and has been particularly successful at swimming. At the Gt. Yarmouth Schools Swimming Sports we obtained three first places, two seconds and three thirds. Trevor Jones (Essex) broke the record for 25 Yds. Breast Stroke Primary. In recent years three records have been broken by our pupils. John Peck (Ipswich) and Susan Siggers (Essex) were selected to represent Gt. Yarmouth at the Norfolk Schools Swimming Association Gala.

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL

Parties of our pupils have attended the concerts and festivals arranged by the Gt. Yarmouth Schools Music Association and the following visits have been made:—

Gorleston Trades Fair.
Bury St. Edmunds.
Mystery Tour of Norfolk Villages and a boat trip on the
Norfolk Broads.
Sugar Beet Factory.
Power Station.
London Airport.

Two groups of our senior girls continue to take a course in Domestic Subjects at Gorleston Girls' School and I am grateful to the Headmistress and her staff for their help and the consideration our pupils invariably receive. With this in mind it was with pleasure that I was able to arrange for Groups of girls from Gorleston Girls' School to receive swimming instruction in our pool on Friday afternoons. The Wroughton Junior School also sends two groups on the same afternoon. The Gt. Yarmouth Schools Swimming Association held its proficiency tests for Juniors in our pool.

During the year an article appeared in the local press dealing with our new hearing aids and this attracted the attention of B.B.C. officials in Norwich who sent a recording van to the School and made recordings of interviews with members of the staff and the children working in the classrooms. These were edited and appeared in "High-light" on V.H.F. from Norwich and later were repeated on the Midland Service.

A further Westrex Group Hearing Aid has been installed in a classroom fitted with acoustic tiling and by the end of the summer holidays there will be three classrooms fitted with Group Hearing Aids in addition to Westrex and Amplivox Speech Trainers available for individual teaching. During the year the Ministry of Health issued Transistor Hearing Aids fitted with a special coil for use with an inductance loop to all our deaf pupils who would benefit from such an aid. These aids are much more compact than the original Medresco Aids and have been of great value to the children. The use of these aids with an inductance loop has opened up a new field in the education of the deaf. There are still some technical difficulties to be overcome before every classroom can be fitted with a loop, principally the question of overspill when adjacent rooms have loops. The indications are that these problems will be solved in the near future.

On the 1st April, 1959 the School became a maintained school under the County Borough of Great Yarmouth and I should like to

express my thanks to the new Clerk to the Governors and his staff for the easy manner in which the change took place and the help I received in adapting the administrative routine of this School to that in operation in Great Yarmouth. There always was a close link between the School and the educational, cultural and sporting life of Great Yarmouth and staff and pupils were invariably invited to take their place in whatever activity attracted them. As far as the School is concerned the change means that the link has been forged a little stronger.

The administrative change was followed by the retirement of Mr. G. J. Wroughton who served the School as Clerk to the Governors for 15 years. During that period Mr. Wroughton endeared himself to staff and pupils alike and was held in high esteem by all and he retires with the best wishes and grateful thanks of the School.

The Guides and Brownies continue to meet regularly and these movements are excellent for bringing our pupils into contact with children outside the School. Unfortunately I have been unable to rouse interest in Scouts and Cubs and the system by which I sent some of our boys to join an outside group gradually failed. With one exception the boys did not maintain their interest.

The Re-Union of Old Pupils and Staff was held on Saturday, 4th July and three hundred people attended. As no room in the School can seat this number the tea and meeting were held in St. Andrew's Hall, Gorleston.

There are now 25 pupils who return home regularly every week-end, a further 10 who return home for some week-ends and approximately 120 pupils who return home for Half Term holidays. The travelling expenses on these occasions are met by the parents, some of whom call at the School for their children but there is a growing tendency for the senior pupils to travel home unescorted. Before a pupil is allowed to travel on his own the written permission of the parents is obtained.

The School Christmas Concert was very successful and received support from 700 parents, friends and local people. The concert was well received and reflected the work of the School.

The School Swimming Sports which are always held on the Thursday before the last week of the Summer Term was also well supported by parents. It is very encouraging that many parents should consider it worth while to travel long distances at some inconvenience to attend our school functions and we make our Swimming Sports a social occasion when the school is open to parents and they can meet the staff over a cup of tea. Unfortunately we have not at present a

room large enough for such a function and so many people attended our last sports that tea had to be served in three places.

The Great Yarmouth Round Table again provided a magnificent firework display on bonfire night and the members sent lorry-loads of material for a huge fire. The Tablers brought their families to join with our children in the fun and Civil Defence workers brought their Mobile Canteen equipment to provide suitable refreshments.

Poultry keeping has been developed during the year and under a new system boys working in pairs have been given complete charge of either a broody hen and clutch of eggs or a dozen day old chicks and asked to rear them. The stock has been kept in Arks which have been placed on sections of the garden not under cultivation at that particular time and moved regularly and systematically. This has proved to be an interest to the boys, as much an out-of-school activity as part of a school course.

The Cadet Scheme, which was inaugurated in September, 1958 to enable girls of 16 years of age on leaving School to spend two years partly as Cadet Home Mothers and partly as students at the Great Yarmouth Technical College has not been as successful as was at first hoped. A number of girls showed interest, two started under the scheme, but only one has completed the first year. This is a disappointment but I feel the scheme is basically sound and should be continued for a further period.

I should like to thank the Matron and her staff for their loyal co-operation during the year, a year which has had many difficulties as at no time has there been a full staff of Home Mothers. It is becoming very difficult to recruit Home Mothers of the right type as their work, is of necessity mainly during the hours when the children are not in the classrooms, which means that they are needed in the evenings and at the week-ends when most people are home from work.

November, 1959.

A. SPENCER HOWARD
Headmaster

MEDICAL REPORTS

Routine morning and evening surgeries were held in the Sick Bay for the treatment of minor ailments and children who required nursing were taken from the Homes into the Sick Bay where there are four small Wards. The children were seen by Dr. Marwood on his next visit and the parents informed.

Dr. Marwood visited the school daily, examined new pupils on admission and completed forms requested by Local Education Authorities.

Mr. Nicholls, Dental Officer to the School held a clinic in the Sick Bay one evening a week during term, saw each new pupil on admission and made a routine examination of every pupil each term. As a result of these examinations 843 treatments were given consisting of, 125 Extractions, 138 Fillings, 42 Impressions for orthodontic work and 38 other treatments. Of those children requiring orthodontic treatment some were mouth breathers, and the satisfactory alignment of teeth at times presented a problem as a certain amount of time had to be given to checking and correcting the mouth breathing, in addition to the adjustment and renewal of regulation plates.

Mr. Hunter, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the School made six visits during the year and made 113 examinations, mainly of partially sighted children. Sixteen refractions were carried out and spectacles ordered where necessary. Every new partially sighted pupil was seen shortly after admission. Mr. Hunter gave advice on the use of visual aids and also on those pupils who, because of their eye condition should not indulge in certain types of physical exercise.

All partially sighted leavers were given a final examination and the Local Education Authority supplied with a form giving an assessment of the pupil's vision.

One child was operated on by Mr. Hunter at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Mr. Adlington, Aural Surgeon to the School visited on three occasions and saw 86 pupils (three of them partially sighted, the rest deaf). Seven pupils were recommended for tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy which was performed by Mr. Adlington at the Great Yarmouth Hospital. All new pupils were seen at his clinic shortly after admission and one child attended for a course of treatment for sinus trouble and was afterwards admitted to the Great Yarmouth Hospital.

Eight children attended the Chest Clinic at Northgate Hospital and were seen by Mr. Young for a routine examination.

Poliomyelitis vaccination for our pupils was carried out in the Sick Bay by Dr. Didsbury, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Gt. Yarmouth. Twenty eight pupils received the initial dose, to be followed three weeks later by the second dose and 88 pupils received a Booster dose.

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL, GORLESTON, GREAT YARMOUTH

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1959

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors				Bank Balances, transferred to			
Tradebank's Accounts	...	...	...	Borough Treasurer, Great Yarmouth			
Unapportioned Charges, cleared by Borough Treasurer	743	4	2	No. 1 Account	...	...	...
No. 2 Account	...	...	...	No. 2 (Deposit) Account	...	...	...
No. 3 Account	...	...	...	No. 3 Account	...	...	...
				No. 4 Account	...	...	...
Looy Prior Legacy—				Stock of Food in hand at 31. 3. 59	...	...	...
Capital	603	7	7	Stock of Postage Stamps in hand at 31. 3. 59	...	...	...
Interest	73	19	0	Sundry Debtors	...	...	...
				Payment of L.C.D. Superannuation Expenses in Advance	...	...	...
John Andrews Legacy—				East Anglian Savings Bank A/C's	...	...	...
Capital	100	6	6	Looy Prior Bequest	...	...	...
Interest	8	10	8	John Andrews Bequest	...	...	...
School Shipments A/C							
Revenue Surplus							
	22530	19	8				22530 19 8

I hereby certify that I have examined and allowed the accounts of which this is the Balance Sheet.

Dated 4th August, 1959

(Signed) C. R. SEWARD,
Assistant District Auditor.

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOL, GORLESTON, GREAT YARMOUTH

Education (Revenue) Account for the year ended 31st March, 1959

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Precept charges, excess and loaned places	...	...	...	Salaries of Teachers—			
Sale of school materials etc.	6788	0	0	Contributory Service	1680	15	11
Interest on Deposits	...	...	...	Non-contributory	1120	5	7
Interest on Deposits	...	...	...	Teachers Super'n Employer's Costs	...	...	...
Interest on Deposits	...	...	...	Salaries of Non-teaching Staff—			
				Clerical Assistant	...	...	...
				Medical Officers etc.	...	...	...
				Furniture, Apparatus and Equipment	...	...	...
				Books, Stationery and Materials	...	...	...
				Rents, Rates, Taxes and Insurance	...	...	...
				Upkeep of Buildings and Grounds	...	...	...
				Fuel, Light and Cleaning	...	...	...
				Boarding expenses, including wages	...	...	...
				L.C.D. Superannuation	...	...	...
				National Insurance	...	...	...
				Salaries of Officers	...	...	...
				Other exp. of administration	...	...	...
				Travelling expenses	...	...	...
				Headmaster's office expenses	...	...	...
				Children's Recreation Fund	...	...	...
				Loaned Places—Refunds	...	...	...
				Reservancy Indemnity	...	...	...
				Teachers' Retention Grants	...	...	...
				Income in excess of Expenditure for the Year	...	...	...
	68872	17	1				68872 17 1

Appendix 3

The School's Host in the War Years

Aberpergwm Mansion in Glyn Neath, Glamorganshire, Wales had been the seat of a local family named Williams since the 1500's and had been enlarged and enhanced by many generations. The first member of the Williams family to come to Aberpergwm was Jenkin Williams, who came from Blaen Baglan, to what was just a farm which was leased from the last Abbot of Neath sometime after 1560.

At first, agriculture provided the family's wealth, but with the coming of the Industrial Revolution, the hidden assets of the land were exploited to generate even greater wealth. Iron ore and coal were extracted to provide the raw materials for the new technology of the late 18th and 19th centuries. As a result, Glyn Neath became more populous as miners and metal workers moved in, where once the estate's farm workers had lived.

Although astute in business, the family were deeply committed to retain the rich Celtic history of Wales and in the 1760's the household included the bard Daffydd Nicholas – a memorial plaque can still be seen at the Aberpergwm church of St Cadoc.

William Williams (1788-1855), a cultured man, was a scholar and linguist who spent many years travelling through Asia, Russia and the Mediterranean, absorbing many cultures, but maintaining the love of his native tongue. On his return home, he spent the 1820's and 30's changing the look of the estate. Farm cottages were swept away, woods were planted and hillsides enclosed by dry stone walls. Near the house were terraces, shrubberies and glasshouses where grapes and citrus fruit were produced. A large walled kitchen garden also provided vegetables and soft fruit for the house.

The Williams family had their fair share of tragedy as befalls most families. A brother of William's, Thomas was a clergyman who pursued the love of his life, Jeanie, across Europe before her parents relented and permitted them to marry in 1831. Sadly, she died of consumption shortly after and there is an elaborate tomb resembling a wedding cake standing in the churchyard at Aberpergwm. Consumption also took the lives of the two eldest sons of the next generation and a stray bullet in the Zulu wars killed the youngest son, George. The remaining brother, Morgan Stuart Williams, inherited the estate and on his marriage to Josephine Herbert of Clytha in 1873 embarked on an extensive programme of refurbishment and enlargement of the house. The Victorian façade was completed 20 years later. However, the family then moved to St Donat's Castle due to the encroachment on the surrounding park by the mining industry. Morgan had amassed a large collection of medieval armour and weaponry for which the castle was the perfect setting.

Aberpergwm ultimately became the property of Morgan's eldest son, Godfrey, who sold St Donats preferring the old house. Godfrey served in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve during the First World War, while his brother served in the Army. During their absence, Aberpergwm became a home for convalescent servicemen. After the war, Godfrey spent less and less time at Aberpergwm, indulging in his passion for yachting and he eventually settled in Jersey.

Appendix 4

Hand Signing

Author's Note

During my researches I came upon this pamphlet, which is unrelated to E.A.S., however it does give an insight to the attitudes towards the deaf in 1923.

Facts about the Mission.

FOUNDED 1876.

Area :
All Northumberland;
nearly all Durham.

Number of Deaf :
Nearly 1,100 known
in 130 Towns and
Villages.

Centres :
Newcastle,
South Shields,
Blyth,
West Hartlepool,
Durham City,
Houghton-le-Spring,
Seaham Harbour,
Berwick-on-Tweed.

Magazine :
'Northumbria,' 1/- a
year, sent to every
deaf person quarterly.

Some of the Work :
Special Services for
Children and Adults,
Bible Classes,
Social Clubs,
Evening School,
Savings Bank,
Visiting in their homes,
Obtaining Employment,
Interpretation, etc.

Some of the Needs :
Help towards
Endowment Fund,
A Second Lady Worker,
Permanent Buildings at
South Shields,
Volunteer Collectors,
Volunteer Visitors,
Books, Papers, and
Magazines for the Sick,
Hospital Letters.

Help is extended to all the Deaf
irrespective of Creed.

Our Object :
"To bring into Christian fellowship those who live
in deepest silence, so that they may hear in their
hearts the still small voice of the Spirit of God
speaking to them."
(Archdeacon of Auckland
at West Hartlepool, 22/6/1923.)

Dalla Bros & Co., Ltd., Printers, Newcastle.

The Northumberland & Durham Mission to the Deaf & Dumb.

(The 'Parish Church' for the Deaf
of the Two Counties).

CENTRES :
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, SOUTH SHIELDS, BLYTH,
WEST HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM CITY, HOUGHTON-LE-
SPRING, SEAHAM HARBOUR, & BERWICK-ON-TWEED.

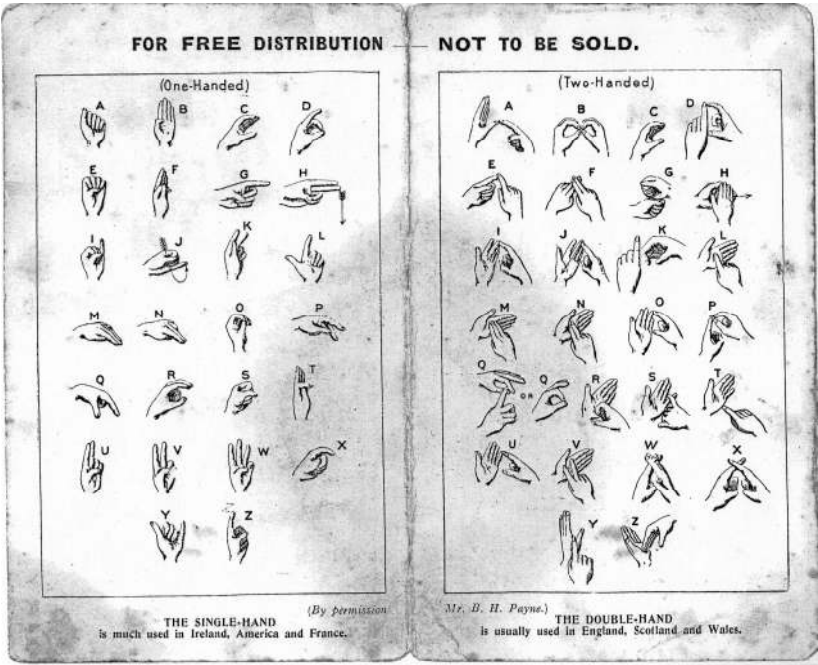
If your Deaf Friend can Speak
and Lip-read, talk as you do to
anyone else.
But if he or she cannot Lip-read,
it will be of mutual help if you
will learn the Manual Alphabet.

It will take you but 10 minutes.

All information about the Mission, Education
of Deaf Children, Lip-reading for Deaf Adults,
Hospitals for the treatment of Ear troubles,
Literature, etc., from

**The Secretary at
Headquarters :—**
182 WESTGATE ROAD,
or 'Phone: **NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**
CENTRAL 5893.

It was believed that to learn the signing alphabet should only take 10 minutes! Oh yes, you try. The second point is that signing has changed little over the years.



Maurice Joel

Appendix 5

School Reunions

School reunions had been a feature at the East Anglian School for many years before the closure of the school. They were generally held annually, and proved to be very popular with ex-staff and ex-pupils. For instance in 1939 the number of people in attendance was such that the school, which was the normal venue for the event, proved to be too small to accommodate those wishing to attend so the reunion was held in St Andrew's Hall, Gorleston.

Once it was decided that the school was to close whether the reunions would continue was a matter of some conjecture. Ted Herbert having received a consensus that they should continue became their organiser. The first two reunions were held at Eastbourne in 1984 and 1985. In 1986 the venue changed to the Victoria Hotel in Great Yarmouth.



The above picture shows an early reunion in 1988 when nearly 70 former pupils and staff met at the Victoria Hotel in Great Yarmouth. This venue proved popular and was used for many years.



The Victoria did prove popular with the former pupils and staff as this cake bears testament.

It was made for the 10th anniversary reunion at the Victoria in 1996.



Scenes from reunions over the years.

In 1995 some of the former pupils and staff decided to take a holiday at Glyn Neath, the home of the school during the War Years. There was a shock in store when the group visited Aberpergym House as it was in ruins.



It had started falling into this state after the death of Godfrey Williams in 1956. In 1948 Aberpergwm House had become the Regional Headquarters of the newly created Coal Board for a while but this had not lasted long.



With its long and chequered history, one wonders if the voices and laughter of the children who spent five years under its roof, still echoes around the remains of the tumble-downed building.

Luckily the Lamb and Flag Public House was open so a few hours were spent 'forgetting' about the disappointment of the house.





As always good things never last forever. The reunions at the Victoria came to an end, and for a few occasions the reunions were held at the Hadleigh Gables Hotel on North Drive, Great Yarmouth. Finally they decided to move the venue to the Imperial Hotel on Yarmouth's Golden Mile, for the last few years.

Author's Note

I have attended some reunions and found the people to be very good company and always in high spirits.

Conclusion

A big thank you for all those wonderful recollections that you have passed on to me over the last three years of my research into the history of the "East Anglian School".

I have had numerous cups of tea and chats over this period and one thing that is apparent, is the professionalism and dedication of all the staff towards the school and its pupils - it stands out. It's those two qualities that made the school what it was, with children that were always very happy, well looked after and well fed and clothed.

The majority of the staff had spent almost a lifetime working at the school, some achieved long service records of thirty five, thirty eight and one even reached forty two years service!!! To obtain this standard, you have to be dedicated to the vocation and more!

It was also the best example of co-operation between various county authorities that I have ever come across and all credit to them for achieving this.

For me, writing this book has been a true labour of love and I have had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful people. Thanks to each and every one of you who has helped me to piece this book together with photographs, letters and information that would have been missing from this history of the school. Thanks again for a wonderful experience and I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Maurice Joel

Eldest brother of Geoffrey Joel Pupil from 1944 - 1955

Sources

Norfolk Record Office
The Archive Centre
Martineau Lane
Norwich NR1 2DQ :

C/ED 37	East Anglian School	1904-1985
	Quantity 108 Pieces	

Administrative/Biographical History: This school initially operated jointly by several local authorities but situated within the County Borough of Great Yarmouth, was begun in 1912 as a special school for the deaf and blind. Following Local Government reorganisation in 1974 it became the responsibility of Norfolk County Council Education Department.

Related material : For other records see Y/TR 278; Y/ED 121, 321-324 ; Y/ED 76-77; Y/TR 665-671.

Archant Newspapers; Great Yarmouth Mercury and Eastern Daily Press.

Mr Norman Finbow's photographic archive of the East Anglian School.