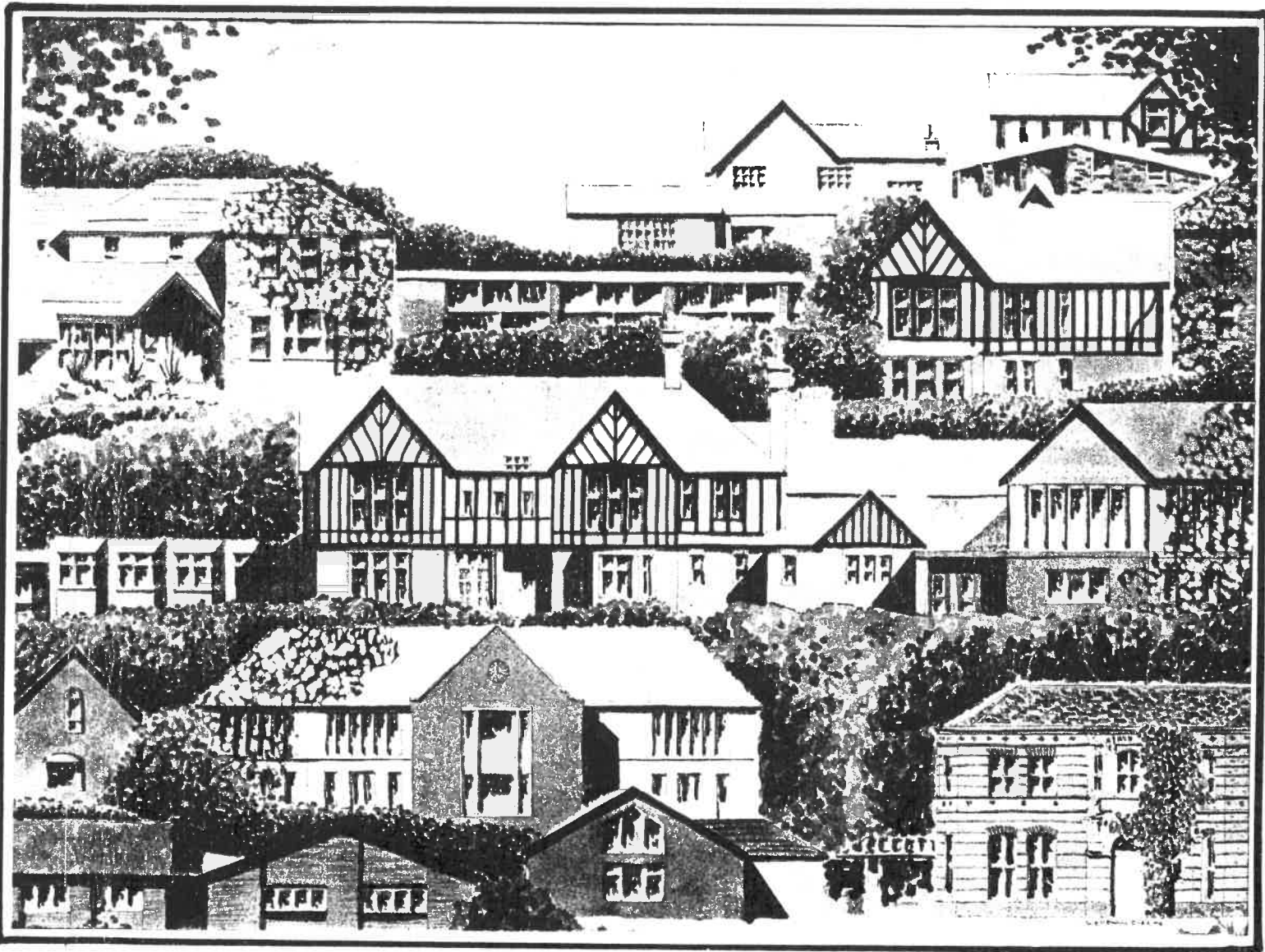
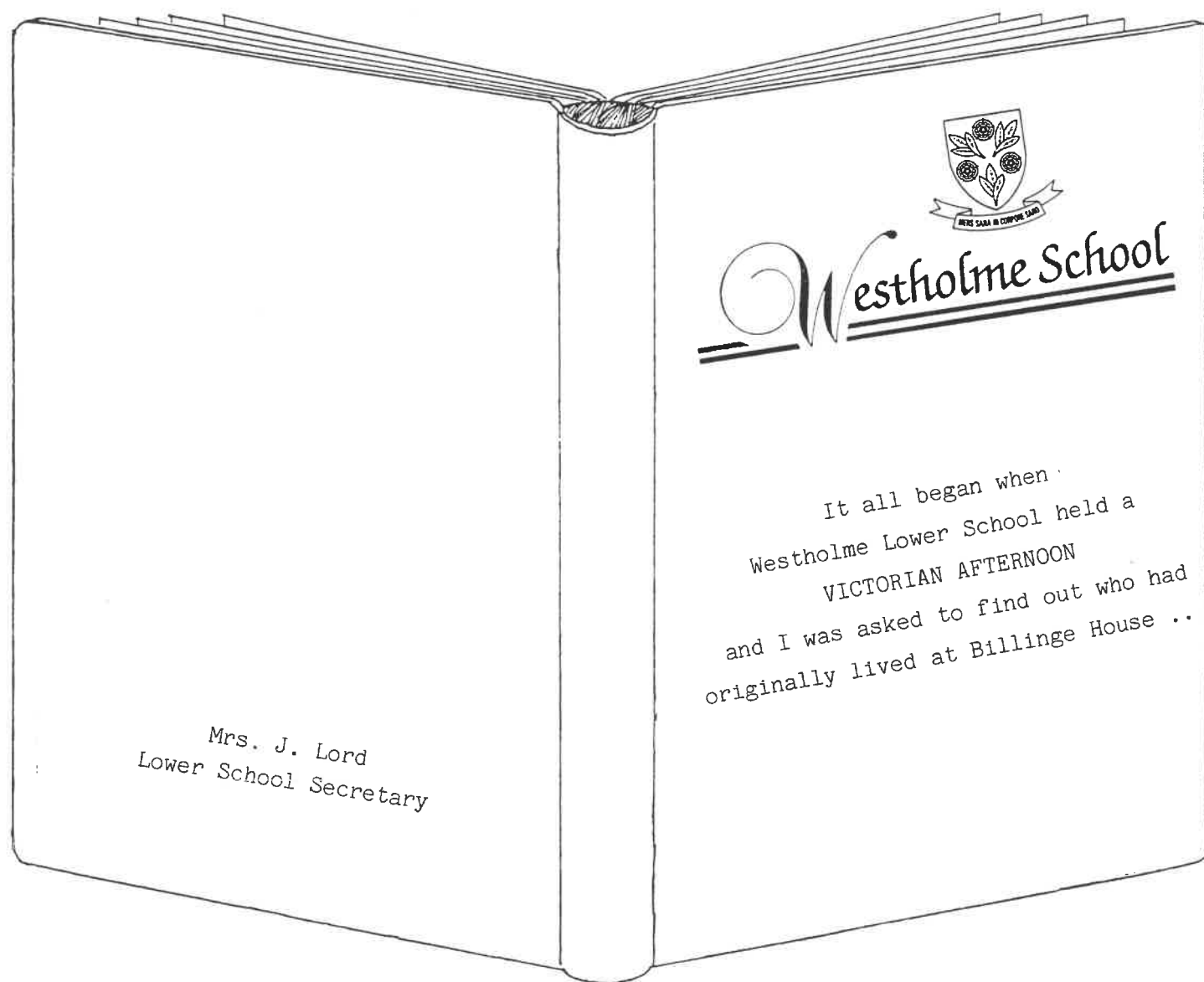


The history of BILLINGE house AND Westholme school



by MRS J LORD
LOWER SCHOOL SECRETARY



First edition - July, 1995
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THE HISTORY OF BILLINGE HOUSE
AND WESTHOLME SCHOOL

It was in about 1816, at the age of 22, that John Lewis from Bangor-on-the-Dee, Wales, arrived in Blackburn, where he formed his business as a wholesale and retail grocer, at his premises on Church Street, having learnt his trade in London and Manchester. His grandfather was a well-to-do maltster in Bangor. John Lewis (1794-1852) married Mary Stones, whose family had a long connection with Blackburn, her great-grandfather having been concerned in the Rebellion of 1715. They had five sons and three daughters. At first they lived on Church Street, probably above the shop, later residing at No. 8, Richmond Terrace, where he died, in 1852.

It was in the same year that his sons diversified, turning to the cotton trade. They built a weaving shed on Stanley Street, in the Daisyfield District. It was promptly nicknamed 't'Buttertub', referring to the family's reputation as grocers. In 1859 the grocery business was finally sold, in order to build their first spinning mill. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, in 1861, the Lewis brothers had all their wealth invested in the, as yet, incomplete buildings. However, they survived the next few difficult years, using Egyptian cotton. They were well equipped for the boom that followed. Their two spinning mills, and their weaving sheds, containing 1,400 looms, were the most up-to-date in the county.

James Lewis (1818-1887), the eldest son of John, married Ellen Shaw in 1857. They had no children. In about 1865, he built his home, on Preston New Road, and named it 'Springfield', after the family mills. Another brother lived at Beardwood Bank. On his death, he left his shares of the business to his nephews, Henry and Thomas.

James' youngest brother, Thomas Lewis (1820-1884) was born on Church Street and was the 3rd son of John Lewis (1794-1852). He was educated at the Blackburn Grammar School (Queen Elizabeth's), of which he was later to become a governor. After his marriage to Ann Boys of Durton, Preston, they lived on Richmond Terrace and later moved to Billinge House, built 1867 by Thomas. Altogether, they had 5 daughters and 2 sons, (their ages in brackets were taken at the 1871 census). Ann and her daughters were renowned for their social and religious activities, all involved in Sunday School teaching or Church work.

Marianne	b. 1854	(age 17)
Martha	b. 1856	(age 15)
Henry	b. 1857	(age 14)
Alice Elizabeth	b. 1859	(age 12)
Frances Margaret	b. 1861	(age 10)
Annie	b. 1863	(age 8)
Thomas Boys	b. 1869	(age 2)

The following people worked at Billinge House for the Lewis family:

Louisa Perks	(Governess)	b. 1845	(age 26)
Ann Hull	(Servant)	b. 1852	(age 20)
Ann Bailey	(Servant)	b. 1851	(age 19)
Lettice Bleazard	(Servant)	b. 1855	(age 16)

William Booth (Coachman) (1834) and his wife Margaret (1841) lived in Billinge Cottage, in the grounds of Billinge House.

Henry Lewis (1857-1915), the third child and eldest son, was born at Richmond Terrace. He was educated at Blackburn Grammar School, Repton and finally at Christchurch, Oxford, where he attained a 1st Class Degree in Moderations. In 1890, Henry married Alice Pickup, daughter of a former Mayor of Blackburn (1869-71). They had two daughters and a son.

Henry was deeply concerned with the educational opportunities in Blackburn. His firm was one of the earliest to encourage education by paying half the fees of their young work people who attended the Technical College. In 1898, Henry became Chairman of the Blackburn Technical Instruction Committee. In the same year, he became Chairman of the Peel Foundation, which gave out scholarships for the study of Modern Languages. In 1903, he was also to become Chairman of the Education Committee.

Thomas Boys Lewis, (Poet & Antiquary), was born in 1869 at Billinge House. He was the youngest of 7 children. He moved to Gorse Road when he married in 1899 and he died at Oak Hill, Whalley, on the 9th September, 1942, at the age of 73.

It was the recognized thing for the prosperous business of Blackburn in those days to give their sons the best available educational opportunities, irrespective of the fact that most of them would come back home to work in the mill and barter on the Manchester Exchange." So it was for Thomas, who was sent to Eton, then King's College, Cambridge, gaining a 1st Class degree in the Classical Tripos. Although he won a scholarship to Cambridge, he remained there for only three of the appointed six years (1887-1890), studying Greek, History and the Arts.

On leaving Cambridge, he spent two years teaching at Malvern College, before returning to Blackburn in 1892, to join the family business. Like his brother Henry, Thomas showed much interest in the educational facilities available in Blackburn. He taught Latin and Greek at the Technical College, on a voluntary basis. So enthusiastic was he that when he relinquished the post after his marriage he continued the coaching of his more advanced pupils at his own home.

On the 1st July, 1899, Thomas Boys Lewis, aged 30, married Hilary Coddington, two years his junior. Like Thomas, Hilary was of a wealthy family of cotton mill owners, but much more interesting; she was a professional painter, trained in London and Paris, with her own private studio in New York. According to the Blackburn Times dated 1st July, 1899, all the employees of the Lewis mills were given a holiday to celebrate the event. Not only were they given full pay for that day, but also each received a free ticket to Blackpool.

They resided at 'Edenholme' on Gorse Road. They had one son, Richard, born in 1900. Like his father, Richard went to Eton, then received a Scholarship for King's College, Cambridge. After gaining a 1st Class Degree in the Economics Tripos, he was called to the Bar. He lived in London, where he married, but they had no children. T.B. Lewis spent twenty-eight years in the family business. After Henry's death, he continued as controlling director for five years, until 1920, when he sold the business. Then aged 51, he retired into private life.

Nonetheless, retired and wealthy, T.B. Lewis was free to follow his own pursuits.

His largest educational gift to the town was the Lewis Textile Museum. Opened in 1934, it represents the development of the cotton trade over the past two hundred years, and contains many objects of historical interest.

The preservation of Samlesbury Hall is another achievement due to his generosity. The hall and grounds were originally offered to him for the sum of £1,500 but he refused it, not thinking there was sufficient public interest in such matters to warrant its preservation as a monument of olden days. For seven years he wrote annually a historical play to be produced in the Great Hall before the 'Friends of Samlesbury'. He also called in an old school fellow, Sir Charles Holmes, formerly Director of the National Gallery, to paint a series of ten oils and thirty-three water colours with which to decorate the walls.

In August of 1936, his wife Hilary, who had helped him with his various projects since his retirement, died at the age of 65, robbing T.B. Lewis of a close companion and partner.

Some seventeen months later, on the 26th January, 1938, T.B. Lewis re-married. His bride, Mrs. Mary Alice Smalley, J.P., of Elswick, Mellor, was the widow of Henry Smalley, J.P. After a quiet wedding, they resided at 'Oakhill', a large, impressive house in Whalley.

After Thomas Boys Lewis' death on the 9th September, 1942, aged 73, his wife lived another twenty-one years. On the 19th March, 1963, she died at the age of ninety-three.

In 1899 at the age of 42, Henry and his wife Alice, took Billinge House over, upon the marriage of his brother Thomas Boys Lewis, who moved to Gorse Road.

On the 1st April, 1923, Miss Emily Hilda Singleton and a family friend, Miss Ivy Richmond, opened a school, as a joint venture, in the premises of the Trinity Methodist Sunday School in Montague Street.

The school later got its name from the residence of Miss Singleton's parents, Westholme, 167 Preston New Road, Blackburn, when, because of increasing numbers and the inconvenience of the church premises, it moved into part of the family home and re-opened on Tuesday, 14th September, 1926, following alterations made to the new premises.

In July, 1928, Miss Richmond B.A., due to marriage, retired from her position as co-Principal of the school and Miss Singleton became the sole Principal.

Eventually, in 1930, the school moved again to Billinge House. In Coronation year, a stone hall, Coronation Hall, was built to replace the wooden hall. In 1940 the Ministry of Education granted the school the status of an Independent School Recognised as Efficient. In 1956 "Recognition" was extended to the Senior Girls' School.

Miss Singleton was born in Darwen on the 2nd March, 1891, into a family with an educational tradition, for her great aunt had been trained as a teacher at Westminster College, London. Shortly after the 1914/18 war, she qualified as a teacher at Dudley Training College. Her first post was at a Blackburn Elementary School from which she resigned to take up an appointment with the West Riding Education Authority. However, for domestic reasons, she returned to Blackburn and Westholme School was

launched. Miss Singleton was co-Principal and Principal for a period of 28 years.

In a letter dated October, 1949, Miss Singleton informed parents of her forthcoming retirement and the arrangements that had been agreed with Mr. & Mrs. Rouse.

Together with his wife, Elizabeth, Mr. Rouse visited Westholme School 'at work' early in November, and Miss Singleton handed over to them at the end of the Autumn Term 1949. Mr. & Mrs. Rouse moved into Billinge House and lived on the premises ready for the start of the new term in January, 1950, when they became joint Principals.

In 1957 they purchased Beardwood Bank and in September, 1968 they purchased Wilmar Lodge.

In January, 1960, Mrs. Patricia Cook commenced at Westholme School and became Headmistress of Billinge House and Beardwood Bank (Lower and Middle Schools) in 1976, after taking maternity leave from December, 1968 to September, 1972. She took early retirement in July, 1993.

In January, 1960, Miss Connie Thompson joined the staff of Lower School at Billinge House, having previously taught at Local Authority Schools in Denton, Accrington and Padiham, her home town. During her twenty-two years at Westholme, she taught throughout the Lower School and was appointed Mistress-in-Charge in 1976. Since her retirement in 1982, she has kept a close connection with Westholme in her capacity as Lower School librarian (one day a week) and has watched the school grow and develop.

In 1968 the school became a Charity administered by a Board of Governors. Mr. Rouse was appointed Principal and Dr. Joan Bond became Headmistress of the Upper School.

When Mr. & Mrs. Rouse acquired Westholme, there were 166 pupils. By the time he retired as Principal in 1976, the number had risen to 680 pupils in three departments.

After he retired as Principal in 1976, Mr. Rouse continued to be actively involved in the development of the school for many years as a Governor and as Chairman of the Finance Committee, maintaining a lively interest in all the concerns of the school and its former pupils until his death.

In 1976 Dr. Joan Bond became Principal of Westholme School until her retirement in 1988.

On the 1st April, 1988, Mrs. Lillian Croston was appointed Principal of Westholme School.

In September, 1993, Miss Mary Pagnamenta took over as Headmistress of Lower and Middle Schools, until the 13th September, 1994.

In September, 1994, Mrs. Christine Harrison became temporary Acting Headmistress at Billinge House and Mrs. Betty Aspden temporary Acting

Headmistress at Beardwood Bank. They both took over as Headmistress of their respective departments later in the school year.

Mr. Arthur R. Rouse, M.B.E. J.P. died on the 22nd December, 1997, aged 86. His funeral took place at the Parish Church of St. Silas on Tuesday, 30th December and a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mr. Rouse took place on Friday, 30th January, 1998 at the Parish Church of St. Silas.

During the Second World War he served with distinction as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment, was awarded the M.B.E. and retired with the rank of Major. He was a life-long supporter of the NSPCC and Barnardos. He worked for many years as a magistrate in Blackburn and was a long-serving member and a past-president of Blackburn Rotary Club.

75th Anniversary 1st April, 1923 to 1st April, 1998.

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Westholme School, the Principal, Chairman and Governors of Westholme School invited all the current staff to join them for dinner at the Foxfields Hotel, Billington, Whalley, on the evening of Wednesday, 1st April, 1998. A total of 111 Staff and Governors attended. All 1,057 pupils (661 at Wilmar Lodge, 200 at Beardwood Bank and 196 at Billinge House) were presented with commemorative china mugs.

A projected visit to the Millennium Dome site in London was organized for Monday, 18th January, 1999, attended by Mrs. Croston (Principal), Mrs. Georghiou (Deputy Head), Mr. Millest (Upper School), Mrs. Northin (Middle School), Mrs. Ball (Lower School) and Mrs. Lees (Parent/Governor). They were accompanied by 5 pupils representing the three departments - Sarah Turner (17), Louize Jaegar-Scott (16), Sally Crawshaw (14), Abbie Campbell (9) and Jack Bibby (6). The plan is to take the whole school to the Millennium Dome in April, 2000, therefore a preliminary visit was necessary to allow for the preparation of such a visit.

**SPECIAL DATES CONNECTED WITH BILLINGE HOUSE
AND OCCUPANTS TAKEN FROM THE ELECTORAL REGISTER**

- 1820 Thomas Lewis born.
- Thomas Lewis married Ann Boys of Durton, Preston, and went to live at Richmond Terrace, they had 6 children as listed below.
- 1854 Marianne Lewis was born.
- 1856 Martha Lewis was born.
- 1857 Henry Lewis was born at Richmond Terrace.
- 1859 Alice Elizabeth Lewis was born.
- 1861 Frances Margaret Lewis was born.
- 1863 Annie Lewis was born.
- 1867 **BILLINGE HOUSE WAS BUILT.** —
- Thomas Lewis and his wife Ann moved in with their children, governess and servants.
- 1869 Thomas Boys Lewis was born at Billinge House. He was the youngest of the 7 children.
- 1884 Thomas Lewis died aged 64.
- 1890 Henry Lewis, the eldest son, married (aged 33) to Alice Pickup.
- 1899 Thomas Boys Lewis, the youngest son, married (aged 30) to Hilary Coddington. They went to live at 'Edenholme' on Gorse Road.
- 1899 Henry Lewis (aged 42) and his wife moved into Billinge House after the marriage of his brother Thomas Boys Lewis. They had two daughters and a son.
- 1900 Henry Lewis and his family lived at Billinge House.
- 1901 Henry Lewis and his family + John Ward.
- 1902 As above.
- 1903 As above.
- 1904 John Ward.
- 1915 Henry Lewis died (aged 58), and his wife Alice left Billinge House.
- 1920 John W. Cunliffe lived at Billinge House.
- 1921 John W. Cunliffe + Ellen + Herbert.
- 1922 As above + 6/7 other men. Billinge House was possibly used as a home or hostel at this time.

- 1923 Frank and Charlotte Heppard lived at Billinge House.
- 1924 Frank and Charlotte Heppard.
- 1925 Billinge House vacant.
- 1926 Harry and Lilian Eastwood lived at Billinge House.
- 1927 Harry and Lilian Eastwood.
- 1928 Harry and Lilian Eastwood.
- 1929 As above + Phyllis Rawcliffe and sons Harry and Christopher.
- 1930 **WESTHOLME SCHOOL MOVED TO BILLINGE HOUSE DURING THE SUMMER.**
 The Principal was Miss Emily Hilda Singleton.
 The Singleton's lived in upstairs rooms, separated from the schoolrooms, also upstairs.
- 1930/49 Miss Emily H. Singleton and her mother Emma lived at Billinge House when the school moved there in 1930. Mrs. Singleton died there in 1939.
- 1949 Emily Singleton and Freda Briggs (former pupil who stayed on to help Miss Singleton and later qualified as a teacher).
- 1950 In January, Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Rouse purchased Billinge House from Miss Singleton and became joint Principals of the school. They lived on the premises using several rooms upstairs as a flat.
- 1957 Mr. & Mrs. Rouse purchased Beardwood Bank.
- 1960 In January, Mrs. Patricia Cook was appointed at Westholme Lower School.
- 1960 In January, Miss Connie Thompson joined the staff of Lower School.
- 1968 Mr. & Mrs. Rouse purchased Wilmar Lodge.
- 1968 In July, Mr. & Mrs. Rouse moved to a private house, 'Snodworth', in Wilpshire, Blackburn.
- 1968 Following Mr. & Mrs. Rouse's removal to 'Snodworth', a housekeeper and her son lived in the flat upstairs for approximately two years, after which the rooms became part of the school and housed the library and staff room etc.
- 1968 The school became a Charity administered by a Board of Governors. Mr. Rouse was appointed Principal and Dr. Joan Bond became Headmistress of the Upper School.
- 1973 The 'Golden Jubilee' of Westholme School was held (1923-1973).

- 1976 Mrs. P. Cook was appointed Headmistress of Lower School (Billinge House) and Middle School (Beardwood Bank). She took maternity leave from December 1968 to September 1972 and had a daughter, Melanie.
- 1976 Miss C. Thompson was appointed Mistress-in-Charge of Lower School.
- 1976 Dr. Joan Bond became Principal of Westholme School (Billinge House, Beardwood Bank and Wilmar Lodge).
- 1982 Miss C. Thompson retired after twenty-two years service to the school, but still attends voluntarily one day a week to run the Lower School library.
- 1982 Mrs. Beryl Wilkinson was appointed Mistress-in-Charge of Lower School upon Miss Thompson's retirement. She joined the staff at Billinge House in September, 1976.
- 1988 Dr. Joan Bond retired as Principal of Westholme School.
- 1988 On the 1st April, Mrs. Lillian Croston was appointed Principal of Westholme School.
- 1989 Mrs. Beryl Wilkinson retired at the end of July and Mrs. M. Christine Harrison became Mistress-in-Charge.
- 1993 Mrs. Cook took early retirement in July, after many years service.
- 1993/4 Miss Mary Pagnamenta took over as Headmistress of Billinge House and Beardwood Bank in September 1993 until 13th September, 1994.
- 1994 In September, 1994 Mrs. Christine Harrison became Acting Headmistress temporarily at Billinge House, taking over as Head of the Lower School later in the school year. At the same time Mrs. Betty Aspden took over as Head of Middle School.
- 1997 On the 22nd December, 1997, Mr. Arthur R. Rouse died aged 86. His funeral was held on Tuesday, 30th December, 1997 and a Service of Thanksgiving was held on Friday, 30th January, 1998. Mr. Rouse was Principal of Westholme School from 1950 to 1976. After his retirement he continued to be actively involved in the development of the school as a Governor and as Chairman of the Finance Committee, until his death.
- 1998 On the 1st April, 1998, a 75th Anniversary Dinner was held at the Foxfields Hotel, Billington. It was attended by 111 Governors and Staff. Commemorative china mugs were presented to 1,057 pupils.
- 1999 A projected visit to the Millennium Dome site in London was organized for Monday, 18th January, 1999. The plan is to take the whole school to the Millennium Dome in April, 2000, therefore, a preliminary visit was necessary to allow for the preparation of such a visit.



THOMAS BOYS LEWIS 1928
From a painting by his wife, Hilary Coddington Lewis

Memories of Miss Singleton

When teaching in the West Riding I learned that I was needed at home, but with no prospect of a post, due to the Great Depression after the end of the 1914 Great War to end War, when the L.E.A's of Blackburn and surrounding towns were so short of funds that as teachers died or retired (a woman on marrying had to retire) there was a tendency to make no replacement. Classes were re-formed with larger numbers. A young friend, Ivy Richmond, was faced with a somewhat similar situation. People had suggested to her that she should start a private school, so giving parents a choice. We discussed the matter and decided to make a joint venture in 1923. The use of a large room with facilities was obtained. At one time it had been part of a Higher Grade School. As the room had to be vacated at four o'clock each day, folding desks and tables were obtained.

Response was hardly up to expectation with three pupils on the opening morning. There were six however by term end. Fortunately, numbers trebled for the next term. Soon more space was needed. We moved to Westholme on Preston New Road, had an extra teacher and felt to be established. Next Miss Richmond withdrew in order to get married. This was a serious matter, but I decided to carry on, find another teacher, and hope for the best.

As time went on a desire for Recognition by the Board of Education became the aim. This would mean a larger building with grounds for games. Several places were offered but unfortunately in each case gardens were mainly on hillsides. Then came an interesting piece of news. The L.E.A. had decided to discontinue the Preparatory Department of the Girls' High School. Greater possibilities were foreseen. Billinge House with very good grounds was on the market. With great trepidation the risk was taken and we moved in the summer of 1930. Influenced by the same cause other private schools also opened.

When well settled in, idea of Recognition again came to the fore. Gradually one realised that the Board was in no hurry to add another school to its list. At last came a preliminary visit by an H.M.I. who explained that a school could be recognised as preparatory senior but not both housed in one building. Presuming that this school became a preparatory, pupils must finish by thirteen years of age. He suggested a slight alteration in the building and a separate play ground for the very young. Then he made it quite clear that having fulfilled these requirements would give no right at all to recognition. An inspection would follow and if we failed on that, we should be worse off than before. This did not put off the attempt.

It was 1939 before a group of Inspectors arrived, followed later by individual specialists, and the information that the result would be known later. By this time the war was on. Months passed, outside events were making great changes. Had all our efforts gone for nothing? An enquiry was made. In 1941 a fresh H.M.I., bombed out of Manchester, was sent to survey our situation. Later there was a formal letter of Recognition dating from 1940.

A new Education Act in 1944 altered our future. The High School could take only the pupils who passed the scholarship test. Many parents wanted their girls to stay on at Westholme. There was a safe period from eleven to thirteen but then - what? Also parents from outside town were pressing for places. The next time an H.M.I. called, the matter was discussed and ended with this statement, "You may keep older pupils for a two year trial, but if you want to continue with Seniors you must get another building".

At this stage Mr. and Mrs. Rouse took over. With their enthusiasm and capabilities came the undreamed of success clear to all who now know the schools - From Nursery Class to University : the way is clear.

E. H. Singleton.



E. H. Singleton

When I finished my training in 1923, one of my first teaching posts in Blackburn was at the school which Miss Singleton had started in the premises of the Trinity Methodist Sunday School in Montague Street. A few years later, the school moved to a house, Westholme; in Preston New Road, not a very convenient house: no large hall, of course! Eventually, in 1930, the school moved again to Billinge House. Here, at first I gave my lessons once a week in a large wooden hut heated by an oil stove. I taught pupils both individually and in groups, covering a wide range of ages. In Coronation Year, a stone hall, Coronation Hall, replaced the wooden hall. Here, I prepared girls for English Speaking Board examinations and produced entertainments of verse speaking, often for Open Days.

In 1964, I decided that it was time for me to retire. I reached this decision with regret for my association with Westholme had been a long and very happy experience.

Ida Burrows.

WESTHOLME SCHOOL REPORT - CHRISTMAS TERM, 1924

Mr. Ryden later married Miss Singleton's niece - Miss K. Singleton

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND JUNIOR BOYS.

Dickie Ryden

Report for Christmas Term, 1924

	Term Work	Exam- ination	Remarks		Term Work	Exam- ination	Remarks
SCRIPTURE				ARITHMETIC			
COMPOSITION				GEOMETRY			
LITERATURE				ALGEBRA			
READING			<i>Very good start. connects sounds for words intelligently</i>	WRITING			<i>Tris well</i>
RECITATION				DRAWING			
GRAMMAR				NEEDLEWORK			
HISTORY				HANDWORK			
GEOGRAPHY				SINGING			<i>Very good.</i>
NATURE STUDY				THEORY OF MUSIC			
FRENCH				PIANOFORTE			
LATIN				DRILL			<i>Very good.</i>

SCALE OF MARKS.

CLASS I. ... 80—100 per cent.
CLASS II. ... 65—80 "
CLASS III. ... 50—65 "
CLASS IV. ... 33—50 "
FAILED—Below 33 "

ATTENDANCE.

Morning *61.../71.....*
Afternoon *57.../70.....*
Late.....*9*...Times.

NEXT TERM BEGINS *18th Jan. 1925.....*

CONDUCT *Very good.*

*Is a very industrious little boy, with
plenty of common sense--which he
applies to the work expected of him*

Signed *R. H. Singleton.....*

"Miss Singleton's"

Sticky varnished pinewood seats around the sides of the long room, used on Tuesday afternoons for the Sewing Meeting Tea after the old ladies of impossible antiquity emerged from the forbidden territory of the Dorcas Vestry.

We were three somewhat awed small boys and twenty girls - playtime was to escape into the banned no-man's-land of head high grass between the cobbled yard of Trinity Methodist Church (in the Sunday School of which the School of Miss Singleton was situated) and the towering wall of the Girls' High School, or to tip-toe down the steps and clamber up to peep in through the window of the Men's Institute to wonder at the dust sheet covered billiard tables and fascinating rack of cues - these would have made marvellous lances with which to attack the monsters which must have lurked in the forest grasses of the forbidden no-man's land.

I have few memories of the scholastic life with Miss Singleton and Miss Richmond, but the smell of raffia and the joy of making round table mats, especially if allowed to use a few coloured strands, blue, red, and green along with the plain straw, remain vividly in the mind.

These early days of "Miss Singleton's" were not to last long, for after a couple of years we moved to "Westholme" just a few houses up Preston New Road from the Church - this name, of course, moved with the School to its present location.

John K. Brown.
Scholar of 60 years' ago.

PRINCIPALS:-
E. H. SINGLETON.
TRAINED & REG. TEACHER

I. RICHMOND, B.A.
(HONS. LOND.)

WESTHOLME SCHOOL,
167 PRESTON NEW ROAD,
BLACKBURN.

August, 1926.

The Principals are pleased to inform you that the School will re-open at the above address instead of the premises hitherto used.

They feel sure that this change will give every satisfaction, as there will be a great improvement in accommodation.

Owing to the time required for alterations to the new premises, the School will re-open on Tuesday, September 14th, instead of September 9th, as previously stated.

A cordial invitation is given to parents and friends to inspect the premises on Monday afternoon, September 13th.

WESTHOLME SCHOOL, BLACKBURN.

It is with regret that we announce the retirement, at the end of the present term, of MISS RICHMOND, B.A., from her position as co-Principal of this School.

The School will be carried on by MISS SINGLETON as sole Principal. In order to ensure that the high standard of work hitherto maintained shall continue, she has appointed as assistant teacher MISS E. HORSMAN, B.A.

MISS HORSMAN, in addition to an Honours Degree, holds the Secondary School Teachers' Diploma, and has had a varied Secondary School experience which will be of great value in her work with the pupils of this School.

July, 1928.

January, 1940.

Miss E. H. Singleton has much pleasure in announcing that, following a full inspection by H.M. Inspectors for Secondary Schools, Westholme School has attained the distinction of being placed on the list of Preparatory Schools recognised as efficient by the Board of Education.

The value of this honour can to some extent be judged by the fact that at the time of inspection there were only ten such schools on the Board's printed list for the whole of Lancashire, none of these being in Blackburn.

Although recognition in no respect qualifies the School for government grants, it considerably enhances its status, and is a guarantee to parents of its high standard of both education and premises.

*Westholme School,
Blackburn.*

Westholme School,
Billinge End,
Blackburn.

October, 1949

Dear Mr. Rouse

For some time, owing to the growth and development of the school, I have felt that steps should be taken to secure continuity so that the work of the last 28 years should not be lost.

This aim seemed to be difficult of attainment until I met Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Rouse, whose ideals and experience are such, that I believe neither parents nor myself, will ever regret the step I am taking in handing over the school to their care and guidance; for I believe that they will have the direct interest of the school at heart and will also include the wider horizon of education as a whole.

Enclosed separately are such particulars as will help you to appreciate their suitability for the position of Principals, but which would not easily fit into this letter.

I feel sure that I shall be able to promise them, on your behalf, all the goodwill and friendliness which in the past you have given to me.

Mr. and Mrs. Rouse are coming to see the school at work early in November and I should like to make an opportunity then for you to meet them.

So I shall be very pleased if you will spare the time to call at the County Café, King William Street, between 7-30 and 9-30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1st, when I can introduce them to you; and at the same time myself say an official farewell, though I shall of course hope to see you again in the ordinary way of work before I hand over at the end of the term.

I must apologise for the short notice of this invitation. The difficulties of booking a suitable hall and arranging a convenient date have made this unavoidable.

Yours sincerely,

L. A. Wright for

*Westholme School,
Billinge End,
Blackburn.*

October, 1949

Dear

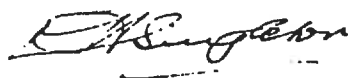
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This aim seemed to be difficult of attainment until I met Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Rouse, whose ideals and experience are such, that I believe neither parents nor myself, will ever regret the step I am taking in handing over the school to their care and guidance; for I believe that they will have the direct interest of the school at heart and will also include the wider horizon of education as a whole.

Enclosed separately are such particulars as will help you to appreciate their suitability for the position of Principals, but which would not easily fit into this letter.

I feel sure that I shall be able to promise them, on your behalf, all the goodwill and friendliness which in the past you have given to me.

Yours sincerely,



MR. A. R. ROUSE has had 17 years teaching experience including work with senior boys and girls and several years with boys of 7 to 11 who were very successful in entrance examinations.

Special teaching subjects are English and Geography. Mr. Rouse is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Other interests include Rugby and Athletic Coaching, Physical Training, Swimming (Silver Medal R.L.S.S.) Art and Craft, Chairman of Schools' Athletic Association (South Leeds).

During the war Mr. Rouse was Adjutant of the 1st Bt. The South Lancashire Regiment, landed in Normandy on D Day with the first assault troops, continued as the principal staff officer of his battalion until the end of hostilities, was mentioned in despatches, awarded the M.B.E. and retired with the rank of Major.

MRS. ROUSE has also had a very successful teaching career with junior boys and girls, but more particularly with senior girls of whose adolescent problems she has made a study.

The school canteen will be under her competent supervision.

Special teaching subjects are History and Art with qualifications in Physical Training.



WESTHOLME SCHOOL LTD.

The following scale of fees will operate from September, 1968.

TUITION FEES

RECEPTION CLASS: Morning only	..	£26 per term.
Full Day	£36 per term.
LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL	..	£43 per term.
UPPER SCHOOL	£45 per term.

FAMILY REBATE.

Where more than one child in a family are in full-time attendance the following reductions in tuition fees are made :

First child	..	no reduction.
Second child	..	fees reduced by £4
Third child	..	fees reduced by £8
Fourth child	..	fees reduced by £12

STATIONERY AND TEXTBOOKS

All stationery and textbooks are provided free with the exception of Bibles and Dictionaries.

FEES FOR OPTIONAL SUBJECTS.

Dancing	..	£1 10s. 0d. per term.
Elocution	..	£1 15s. 0d. per term.

CATERING.

Mid-day meals, cooked and served on the school premises are provided at a charge of £5 10s. 0d. per term.

The charge for children who stay only occasionally is two shillings and sixpence per day.

All fees are payable during the first week of term.

Fees cannot be refunded for unavoidable absence due to illness. Parents may join the School Fees Insurance Scheme, details of which are sent when a place is offered.





WESTHOLME SCHOOL
BLACKBURN

Golden Jubilee Celebration

1923 - 1973

OPEN DAY

THURSDAY, 29th MARCH, 1973

You are invited to visit the schools at the
the times shown on the programme

TIMETABLE & PROGRAMME

UPPER SCHOOL - WILMAR LODGE

School opens from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

In addition to exhibitions and displays throughout the School the following events will take place.

		Morning	Afternoon
WATER BALLET	Baths	10.30 a.m.	2.15 p.m.
		11.30 a.m.	3.00 p.m.
LEAPS AND BOUNDS	Hall	11.00 a.m.	1.45 p.m.
			2.45 p.m.
MUSICAL ITEMS	Hall	10.15 a.m.	2.30 p.m.

TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME

LOWER SCHOOL - BILLINGE HOUSE

School open from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and from
2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

		Morning	Afternoon
Kindergarten L			
ACTION SONGS	Classroom	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.
Kindergarten S			
FINGER PLAYS	Classroom	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.
Lower 1.W.			
SINGING GAMES AND POETRY	Classroom	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.
Lower 1.B.			
MUSIC & MOVEMENT	Hall	10.20 a.m. & 2.20 p.m.	
Lower 2.B.			
TEAM GAMES	Hall	10.40 a.m. & 2.40 p.m.	
Lower 2.C.			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Hall	10.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.	
Lower 3.T.			
PERCUSSION BAND	L2.C Room	10.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.	
CHORAL SPEECH	Own Classroom	10.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.	
Lower 3.H.			
PUPPET SHOW	Classroom	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - BEARDWOOD BANK

School open from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and from
2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

		Morning	Afternoon
Netball Match—Netball Court (if weather is favourable)		10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
PRODUCING A NEWSPAPER	Reference Room	10.30 a.m.	2.30 p.m.
ART LESSONS	M2.C Room	10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
MUSIC	M2.I Room Recorders Singing	10.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m.
SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS	M1.B Room	10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
FRENCH	M1.H Room	10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
DRAMA	M3.F Room	10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.
PRACTICAL MATHEMATICS	M3.A Room	10.00 a.m.	2.00 p.m.

The above activities will run from 10.00 a.m.
to 11.00 a.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Details of programme items and times will
be displayed in the Entrance Hall

Mr. John Lewis, a grocer and cotton manufacturer of Blackburn, built Beardwood Bank as a house for himself. There is no fear of the house falling down on top of us, although some of our members may wish it to sometimes, as the specifications for building were most detailed. It was strictly expressed that all the materials and workmanship were to be of prime quality. In the contracts with the workers, the architect had the right to inspect all the materials, and reject them if he found them unsuitable. The material concerned was then to be re-supplied at the contractor's expense. There was also a clause stating that the proprietor, Mr. Lewis, was not responsible for any damage to Preston New Road by the workmen.

Best patent bricks from Thomas Pilkington's kilns, were to be used for the outer walls, and were to be set in Flemish Bond. There was also some ashlar stonework. The stone used, came from several quarries, some of them local. The cellar walling came from Billinge Quarry and the main entrance steps from Butler's Delph. Stone for the cellar steps, window sills and mantles for the cellar fire-places came from the Fox and Grapes Delph. The best stone for the main entrance was from Slieghton Quarry in Yorkshire. The mortar too was made from local resources, it was made of "the best, fresh, burnt Clitheroe lime". Any stone carvings which were done were usually out of one enormous piece of stone.

Even more fascinating are the detailed instructions for the different types of wood. All the floors and joists were to be of best white deal, the rafters, purlins and all the internal fittings were of American Yellow Pine. Memel or Riga Fir was used for the outside door and window frames. The staircase too was of Memel, but the handrail is of "best Honduras Mahogany".

Today, wood used in the building of houses is cut, made into planks and used in a day. However, a hundred years ago it was not so simple. All the wood had to be properly seasoned before use, which meant, the whole must be placed for seasoning, and reversed so as to equally expose it to the weather. This process took three months.

If it is any reassurance to anyone, especially the staff, the wall between the bathroom, now the staff room, and the water closet, is supported by an iron beam. The water closet itself is fitted with choice Bay wood.

Perhaps the most intriguing parts of the specification are the details concerning door handles, shelving and other accessories. The door knobs varied according to the people who used the doors, not the quality of the door. For instance the front door knob was of ebony or oak and cost twelve shillings. The dining and drawing rooms, bedrooms and Butler's Pantry had ebony handles worth eight and sixpence each. The servants' room, kitchen and cellars had six and sixpenny brass handles. The most interesting door handles were, and are, those on the vestibule door. They are "amber glass, grip handles". This too is the most distinctive door in the house, as it is fitted with a box spring hinge let into the floor at the bottom, and a steel centre pin at the top. This allows the door to be pushed open, or pulled from each side. There seems to be no apparent reason for this, and it was probably just an added luxury. Also in the specification were orders for 150-feet of shelving and one hundred linear yards of hookrail to be erected where directed.

The outbuildings, the carriage house, stables and wash-house were also built in 1865. The wood used was Baltic Pine, American Yellow Pine and Norwegian Spruce. The hay loft had, over each hay rack and the ladder, a two-feet square manhole, with a door attached. Six inch bolts were used to attach the stable partitions to the floor and walls. The slates for the roof came from Bangor, and each row of them had to overlap the other by three inches. Two coats of whitewash were used to finish all the interior; all this cost thirty pounds seven and two pence.

In 1871, a hot-house was erected for three pounds twelve and sixpence - what we would call a bargain. The path from the road to the house, plus two seven feet walls cost twenty-five pounds.

Even though our grandparents claim those to be the good old days when people really worked, there was a clause in the specification which gave the architect the right to protect his client from lazy slow work, by ordering more men on to the job at the contractor's expense. In one hundred years it is amazing how money values have changed. In 1865 the Mason's bill was two hundred and ninety pounds; the plastering cost one hundred and four pounds, nineteen shillings and sixpence; and the stable and carriage house cost thirty pounds, seven shillings, and two pence; and a labourer's wage was about three shillings per day. What a fraction of the amount it costs to build a house today this is, and what good building!



History & Organisation

1991

Westholme School was founded in 1923 by Miss E. H. Singleton as a Preparatory School for girls and young boys. The expressed aim of the school was "to provide a liberal and sound education based on Christian principles". The school grew steadily and by 1930 it was sufficiently well established to move to Billinge House, now the Lower School. There, surrounded by pleasant gardens, it soon became the leading private school in Blackburn and district.

In 1940 the Ministry of Education granted the school the status of an Independent School "Recognised as Efficient".

In 1950, Mr and Mrs. A. R. Rouse succeeded Miss Singleton and in response to public demand the school started to offer courses to G.C.E. 'O' level for older girls.

By 1953 the school had outgrown the accommodation at Billinge House and a separate Senior Girls' School was established, first at Garth and later at Beardwood Bank, now the Middle School. In 1956 the separate Senior School received Ministry "Recognition".



In 1968 the need for further expansion became apparent and in order to meet this the school became a charity administered by a Board of Governors. Wilmar Lodge was acquired and opened as a two form entry grammar school offering courses to University Entrance Standard.

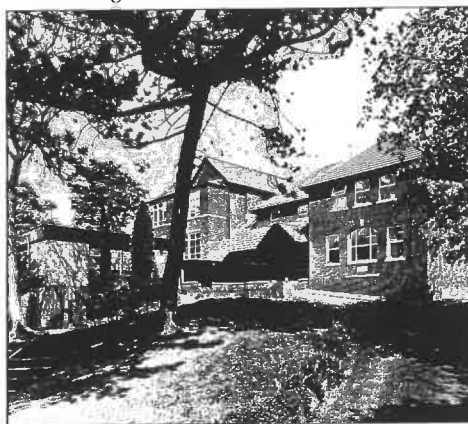
The demand for places has been such that four forms of eleven year old girls are now admitted each year and the sixth form of 100 continues to grow.

The School is organised into three departments:

Lower School for girls and boys aged 4 to 8 years at Billinge House.

Middle School for girls aged 8 to 11 years at Beardwood Bank.

Upper School for girls aged 11 to 18 years at Wilmar Lodge.



In order to provide the facilities required in a modern school a large building programme was embarked upon in 1969 and to date the following extensions have been completed.

- 1969/70 – Hall, Laboratories, Classrooms and Swimming Pool (refurbished 1986) at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1973 – New Classroom and Kitchen Block at Billinge House.
- 1974 – New Science, Library and Classroom Block and Sports Hall at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1976 – Art Centre at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1977 – Four Classrooms and Cloakroom Block at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1978 – Nursery Block at Billinge House.
- 1979 – Multipurpose Hall at Beardwood Bank.
- 1980 – Music Centre at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1981 – Six Classrooms, Physics and Home Economics Block at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1982 – Craft Room at Beardwood Bank.
- 1983 – Computer & Visual Aids Rooms at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1984 – Computer Room at Beardwood Bank.
- 1985 – VI Form Centre at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1986 – 5 acre Playing Field at Wilmar Lodge.
- 1986 – Audio Centre for Modern Language Teaching.
- 1989 – Classrooms and resource areas, Beardwood Bank.
- 1991 – Classrooms with resource areas, Billinge House.



The Lower School

Billinge House, the original "Westholme", accommodates 220 boys and girls during their first four years at school. The main intake is admitted in the September following the child's fourth birthday, whilst a small class of four year olds is admitted the preceeding January.

In the early stages, the child is encouraged to become involved in a wide range of activities which aim to cultivate initiative, co-operation and sociability within a group environment. Activities centre upon the development of language and numerical concepts whilst artistic, musical and physical activities are designed to stimulate enthusiasm and creativity.

Within the school, children are grouped according to age, in classes not exceeding twenty six. There is provision, at all levels, for extra tuition when necessary and small groups are regularly given specialist help.

The curriculum is organised on traditional lines with emphasis on the development of the 3R's. Homework is introduced gradually at top infant level and all juniors are expected to complete homework daily.

Musical activities play an important role. There are opportunities for singing, moving to music and percussion work with both rhythmic and tuned instruments. All children learn to play the recorder from the age of seven. Swimming is a compulsory weekly lesson for all juniors. Ballet may be taken, in school time, if desired.

Computers are used extensively throughout the school to reinforce and extend understanding and reasoning capabilities in all areas of the curriculum.

Educational visits are arranged to complement and extend subject work whenever possible and visitors are invited to school to talk on a wide range of topics.



There is a well-stocked library which doubles as a projection room. The multi-purpose Assembly Hall is also used for Physical Education, Dance and Drama.

At the lower school a modern, well-equipped kitchen provides a hot, two course lunch of which all children are expected to partake.

Invitations are extended to parents to join us during the year for a Nativity Play and Carol Service

and for concerts and displays on the lawn at Billinge House.

Annually, parents are invited to meet the staff to discuss their child's progress during the year and parents receive written reports twice yearly.

The majority of boys sit external examination at 8+ to preparatory and boarding schools of their choice. Girls automatically transfer to Beardwood Bank to continue their education until the age of 11.

The Middle School

When the school was reorganised in 1968 Beardwood Bank became our Middle department with 156 girls from 8+ to 11 years of age. There are two equal ability classes in each of these three age groups.

The department offers a wide range of extra curricular activities and has recently been extended to provide superb facilities for science and practical work.

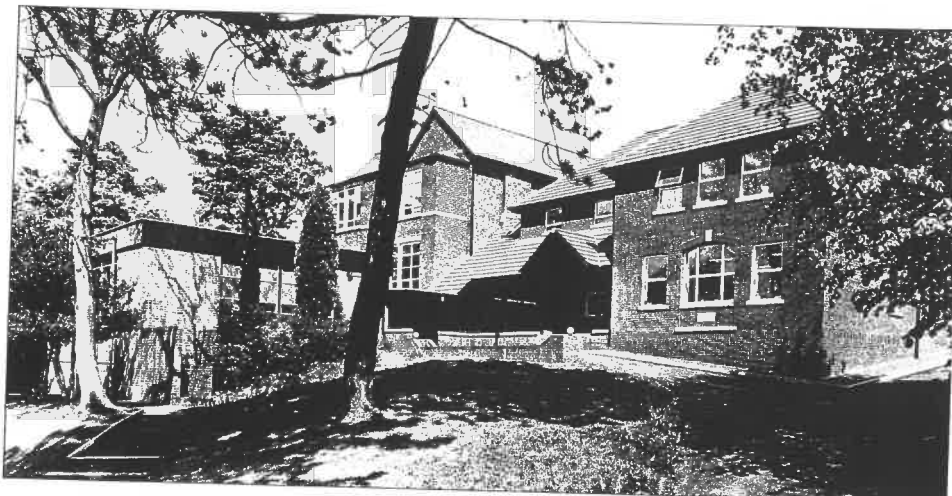
Children are admitted to the Middle School in the September following their eighth birthday after attaining the required standard in the qualifying examination.

The curriculum aims to give a thorough grounding in all aspects of English and Mathematics, to foster an interest in History, Geography, Science, Scripture etc. through well structured projects and to give opportunity for visits, talks and demonstrations whenever possible.

Special tuition is given to small groups of children with learning difficulties particularly in mathematics.

Music is taught by specialist staff and choir and recorder groups reach a high standard of performance. Girls may also learn to play the violin if they wish.

Physical Education is well provided for by the excellent gymnastic equipment in the multi-purpose assembly and dining hall. There is also experience given in dancing and drama and music and movement. Netball and rounders are taught and all girls receive specialist swimming tuition weekly. There is enthusiastic competition between Westholme and many local schools in the various primary school leagues within the town. There are two, hard surface netball courts within the grounds.



Inside the main building there is a well stocked library with excellent reference facilities as well as a comprehensive fictional section.

An art and practical room is situated fifty yards away from the main building.

At the age of eleven the majority of girls take the entrance examination to the Upper School, Wilmar Lodge and some girls transfer to boarding schools of their choice.

Ample opportunities are afforded to parents to visit the school on occasions of academic, musical and sporting interest.

The department has a wide range of computers

which are used for Logo, robotics and to extend classwork in all areas of the curriculum.

The girls have the use of eight Apple Computers with associated disc drive and printers. They become familiar with the machines and adept at programming in 'Logo' language.

We aim to give our children a confident approach to computer literacy and a natural progression to more formal computing techniques in the Upper School.

The Upper School



Wilmar Lodge is situated at the end of Meins Road, about a mile from Preston New Road. The ten acres of ground have been developed to provide excellent sports facilities which include six tennis courts, an indoor swimming pool, a sports hall which is used for indoor netball, tennis, badminton, volley ball and gymnastics and a sports field.

The main school buildings have been converted and extended to provide four laboratories, a computer laboratory, a cookery room, art studios, a music department, twenty classrooms, four tutorial rooms, a spacious library and sixth-form facilities. There is a large assembly/dining hall and mid-day meals are cooked in a modern well-equipped kitchen.

Plans are well advanced for a purpose-built Science Wing to be started in the near future.

The school offers a broad academic and practical curriculum in English Language and Literature, Latin, Classical Studies, French, German, Spanish, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Studies, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Economics, History, British Government, Geography, Religious Knowledge, Art, History of Art, Music, Needlework and Cookery. Girls are prepared for G.C.S.E. and 'A'-level examinations in these subjects.

Music is a special feature of the school. There is a school choir and girls have the opportunity to learn a string, brass or wind instrument and to play in the school orchestra or wind ensemble.

The Art Department is separate from the main school buildings and was originally the stable-block. There is a pleasant Art Room and a most attractive beamed studio for 'A' level Practical and also History of Art. The interesting separate Junior Art and Craft room is set alongside the Art Rooms in a small cobbled courtyard and the new photography unit opened in 1989.

During the first two years the Junior Art and Technology Course consists of basic instruction in Art and Design printing, electronics and I.T. From the third



The Upper School



to the fifth years – girls cover many aspects of Art including graphics, portraiture and heraldry etc. Special emphasis is made on Natural Form to which our lovely rural environment lends itself. At 'A' Level the girls are prepared for foundation courses in local colleges and polytechnics or take 'A' Level History of Art before going on to University.

School societies and house teams meet on most

days during mid-day break and girls are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities and in their house competitions.

The aim of the Upper School is to provide an atmosphere in which each girl can develop her abilities to the full and can excel in some field of activity. Throughout the course there is constant effort to widen interests and to develop a strong sense



of individual responsibility. Most girls will spend two years in the Sixth Form in order to develop their special talents and gain intellectual maturity and then to proceed to some form of higher education either at University, Polytechnic or College of Education.

Applicants for the Upper School are required to take an entrance examination which is held in the spring.

Games and Physical Education

FACILITIES

With the recent addition of the sports field the school enjoys a wide range of sports facilities including six tennis courts, three netball courts, a swimming pool with learner pool, a sports hall large enough to house a full size netball court, four badminton courts, plus the newly developed sports field with two hockey pitches and an athletics track.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum during the first three years is designed to give the girls a broad base in all aspects of physical education, including activities such as netball, hockey, gymnastics and modern dance in the winter months and tennis, athletics and rounders in the summer months. Swimming is available throughout the year in the schools recently modernised indoor pool.

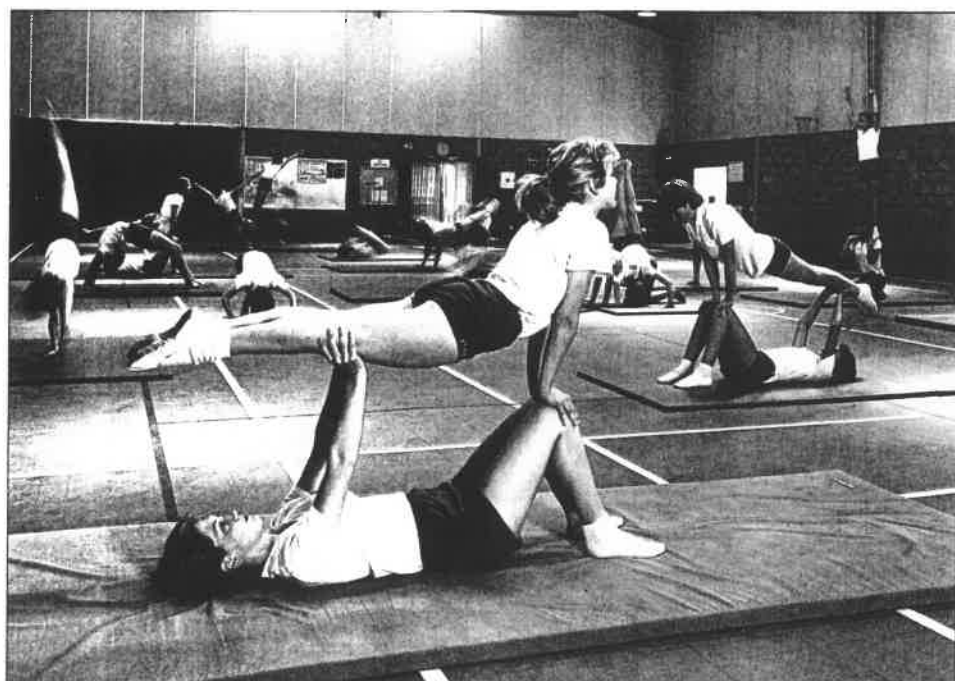
In the fourth, fifth and sixth years the girls are given the opportunity to try a much wider range of activities such as trampolining, badminton, volleyball, keep fit, aerobics, cricket, squash, table-tennis, weight training, golf, water-ballet and water-polo.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Various clubs are run for all ages giving the girls the opportunity to improve their standards and take various sporting awards. These include gymnastics, cross-country, running, keep-fit, badminton, hockey, swimming and tennis.

Inter school matches and tournaments are held for all age groups in netball, badminton, swimming, hockey, rounders, tennis and athletics.

Many of the school teams have achieved county and national honours in badminton, netball,



swimming, athletics, golf and tennis.

Inter-House sporting competitions and junior and senior school sports competitions are also held, providing the opportunity for even more girls to take part competitively.

Various sporting trips are organised including ski-holidays, adventure holidays and day trips to major sporting events such as Wimbledon – the All-England badminton championships and 'netball spotlight' events.

The Upper School

1991



NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK AT BILLINGE HOUSE

COMPLETED JUNE, 1991

Lower School Opening Ceremony Thursday, 25th June, 1992

Five hundred parents and guests attended the Opening of a building and refurbishment scheme costing a quarter of a million pounds.

The spacious facilities were opened by Mr. Ian Woolley, presently Chairman of the Blackburn & District Health Authority, who has been Chairman of the School Governors for the past twenty-three years.

Following the Opening Ceremony, parents and guests were entertained by the full complement of pupils performing 'Carnival of the Animals'.



New classroom block at Billinge House completed June, 1991



SPINNING: Kate Riley, eight, demonstrates her skill with a spinning top, to Jonathan Jackson, eight



FUN SOME FOURSOME: Joining in the fun with Jonathan and Kate are Edwin Verity and Laura Higab

Pupils re-live an age rich in history

THE 'founding fathers' of Westholme School, Blackburn, were recalled by youngsters who turned the clock back to celebrate the history of Billinge House, one of the original school buildings.

The children donned Victorian dress and played Victorian games to bring back the bygone era for parents at an open day.

Billinge House was first used by the school in 1930 after it had moved from a house called 'Westholme,' in Preston New Road, which it had occupied since 1926.

Influential

But before Billinge House was used as a school, it had a rich history linked to one of Blackburn's most influential families, the Lewis's.

Thomas Lewis was the owner of a spinning mill in Blackburn, who married Ann Boys from Preston before setting up home in Billinge House. Of their

seven children, the last was poet and playwright Thomas Boys Lewis, who, after Eton and Cambridge, returned to the family business and gave his services on a voluntary basis to Blackburn Technical College.

His greatest educational gift to the town was the Lewis Textile Museum.

His older brother, Henry, was one of the earliest mill owners to encourage his workers to learn by paying half their fees at the technical college.



GAME TEACHER: Alison Kerry joins pupils for a spot of afternoon fun and games

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH
MONDAY, 3RD JULY, 1995

VICTORIAN AFTERNOON - 28TH JUNE, 1995

OPENING OF THE NEW NURSERY AND GARDEN PARTY

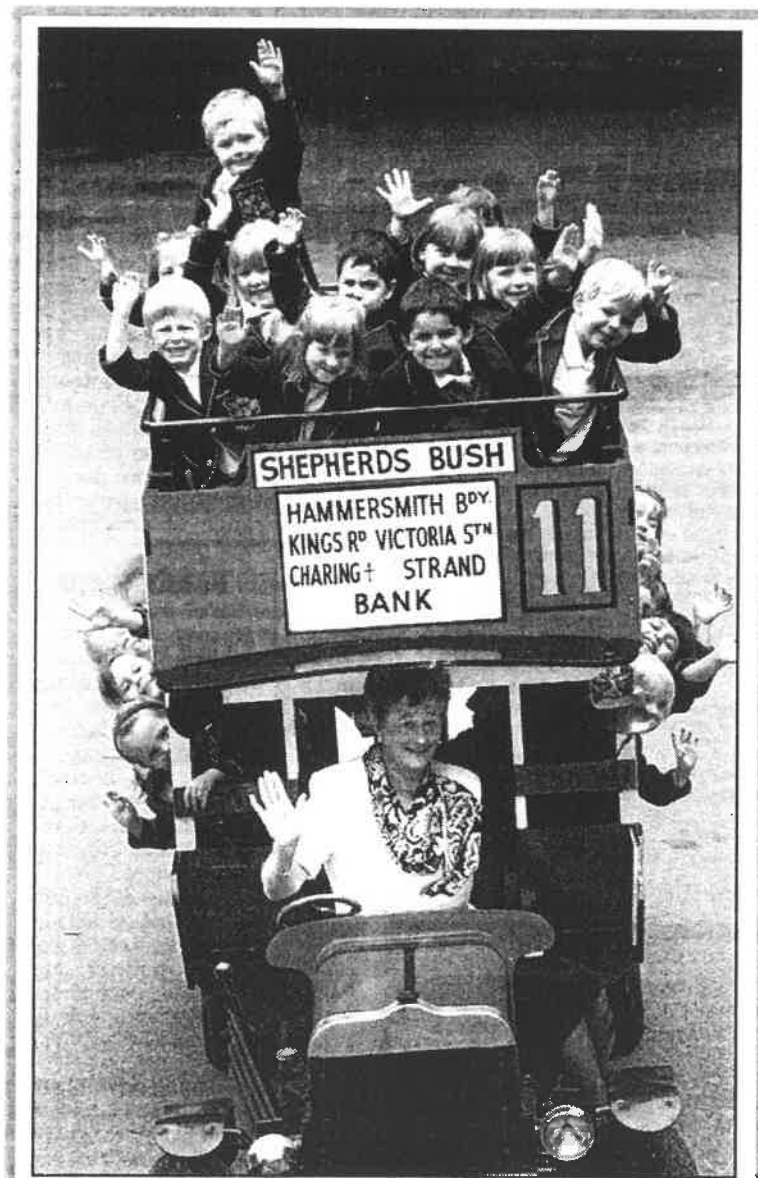
WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 1997

On Wednesday, 2nd July, the new Nursery at Westholme School, Billinge House, was opened by Mrs. Patricia Cook, a former Headmistress. The wonderful new classrooms and play area were the scene of this 'happy' event.

Nursery children performed songs, with a mini-beast theme, to their parents and older boys and girls in the school. They dressed up as ladybirds, spiders, caterpillars, butterflies, grasshoppers and silver bells, to sing their songs. In the garden setting the lawn made a perfect arena for the infant department. They brought the Opening Ceremony to a close with two songs 'In an English Country Garden' and 'This is a Lovely World'.

A garden party ensued with numerous activities for all the children. A Punch and Judy show, Magic Show, Bouncy Castle and double-decker Bus Rides, and sideshows devised by the children, all helped to add to the fun.

Parents were invited to view displays throughout the school and the afternoon closed to the strains of the Beardwood Bank Brass Band.



ARTHUR R. ROUSE, M.B.E., J.P.

WESTHOLME SCHOOL PRINCIPAL 1950 - 1976

ROUSE

Arthur MBE JP

On December 22, 1997, Arthur Rouse MBE JP, Major The South Lancashire Regiment (retired), Principal Westholme School, Blackburn 1950 - 1976. Funeral service at St. Silas Church, Blackburn on Tuesday, December 30, 1997 at 2 p.m. No flowers, but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C., 40 Wellington Street, (St. John's), Blackburn, BB1 8AF. A thanksgiving service will be held at St. Silas Church, Blackburn at 12.30 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 1998. Inquiries the Alty Funeral Service, Witton, Blackburn. Tel. 51251.

Head who made school thrive



A FORMER principal of Westholme School, Blackburn, Arthur Rouse, has died aged 86.

During the Second World War Mr Rouse, who lived in Barker Lane, Mellor served with distinction as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment. He landed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944 with the first assault troops. He was mentioned in despatches, awarded the MBE and retired with the rank of Major.

Three years ago on the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings Mr Rouse proudly led his regiment in the march-past before the Queen on the beach of Arromanches.

Leading

Together with his late wife, Elizabeth, Mr Rouse acquired Westholme School with 166 pupils in October, 1949, after previous teaching experience in Yorkshire.

Under his guidance began the transformation from a small private school to one of the leading girls' independent schools in the country.

By the time he retired as principal in 1976, the school had grown to 680 pupils in three departments.

He continued to be actively involved in the development of the school as a governor and as chairman of the

OBITUARY

finance committee for many years, maintaining a lively interest in all the concerns of the school and its former pupils until his death.

Mr Rouse was a lifelong supporter of children's charities, doing sterling work for the NSPCC and Barnardos.

His service to the local community encompassed many years' work as a magistrate in Blackburn and he was a long-serving member and a past-president of Blackburn Rotary Club.

He leaves a sister who lives in Northamptonshire.

The funeral service will take place at St Silas's Church on Tuesday, December 30 at 2pm and a thanksgiving service will be held on Friday, January 30, 1998 at 12.30pm, also at St Silas's.

21st January, 1998

Dear Parent,

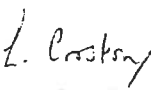
As many of you have long connections with the School I am sending out this general invitation to the Service of Thanksgiving for Arthur Rouse, M.B.E., J.P. to be held at St. Silas Church, Preston New Road, Blackburn on Friday, 30th January, 1998 at 12.30 p.m.

For those of you who did not know Mr. Rouse you may have connections with former pupils and parents who may be unaware of the date and time of the service and so I would be glad if you could pass this letter on to them.

Some pupils from the Upper School will attend the service along with the madrigal choir and four flautists. Representatives from the Magistrates' Bench, Rotary, NSPCC and his wartime friends will be taking part in the service. We intend to celebrate and give thanks for Arthur's life and we ask your help in communicating details to others so that we ensure a good attendance.

I hope those of you who knew Arthur will want to come.

Yours sincerely,


L. Croston (Mrs)
Principal

A
SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING

for the life of

ARTHUR ROUSE, MBE., JP.

Major (retired) The South Lancashire Regiment.

Westholme School Principal 1950-1976

(16/05/11 - 22/12/97)

will take place at

St. Silas' Church
Preston New Road
Blackburn

at 12.30 p.m. on FRIDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1998

All Arthur's family, friends and associates are welcome to attend.



WESTHOLME SCHOOL
BLACKBURN

75th Anniversary Dinner

held at the

FOXFIELDS HOTEL
BILLINGTON

on 1st April, 1998

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Staff of Westholme School gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Governing Body in providing for this Celebratory Dinner.

Board of Governors

Mr. K. J. Ainsworth
Mr. J. N. Prest
Dr. J. K Ashcroft
Mr. P. G. Forrest
Mrs. B. Lees
Mrs. B. Lomax
Mr. B. C. Marsden
Mrs. A. E. Shaw
His Honour Judge E. Slinger
Professor R. D. Taylor
Mr. J. R. Yates

Mr. J. Whittaker (Secretary)

TOASTS

GRACE	Mr. J. N. Prest <i>Vice Chairman of Governors</i>
THE LOYAL TOAST	Mr. W. I. Woolley <i>Chairman of Governors 1968-1991</i>
TOAST TO WESTHOLME SCHOOL	Mr. K. J. Ainsworth <i>Chairman of Governors</i>
RESPONSE	Mrs. L. Croston <i>Principal</i>

MENU

Sautéed Button Mushrooms seasoned with garlic and parsley served warm on a toast croute

Salad Façon Du Chef with continental leaves, salami, crudities, prawns and quails eggs

Deep fried goujonettes of cheese (Brie, Cheddar and Red Leicester) accompanied by a homemade chutney

—

Roast fillet of salmon coated with Provençale Herb and garlic crust and a light cream sauce

Pan-fried supreme of chicken on a bed of pepper ratatouille and a wild mushroom cream sauce

Baked mushroom and spinach crumble in a rich sauce of Stilton and port wine topped with sauté of leek and aubergine

Selection of market fresh vegetables

—

A light lemon and kirsch syllabub with almond butter biscuits

Swiss chocolate marquise with poached Japanese oranges

Cheese and Biscuits

—

Coffee and Fudge

—

WINES

Errazuriz Sauvignon Blanc, La Escultura Estate
Shiraz-Cabernet, Leo Buring

1996/97
1995/96



DOUBLE CELEBRATION: Birthday girl Victoria Edge (right), who was five on the school's anniversary day, with (from left) Ruth Williams, Jack Clews, Hannah MacIntosh, Christopher Edge, lower school head Christine Harrison and William Brown

Pupils party like it's 1923

WESTHOLME School, Blackburn, celebrated its 75th birthday with a party for more than 1,000 pupils and staff.

The school, on Preston New Road, was set up in 1923 by Miss Emily Singleton and named after her parents' home.

Miss Singleton's brother George, a Blackburn businessman, provided the furniture, with a table costing

£1 4s 0d and a cupboard £6 13s 0d. The whole school cost about £41 15s 0d to establish and had only three pupils at first.

Today's younger pupils donned 1920s-style dress to mark the occasion while the senior pupils were given a talk on the history of the school at a special assembly.

There was a birthday cake and a visit from two of the school's first pupils, Mrs

Helen Whittaker and Mrs Kathleen Ryden, the nieces of Miss Singleton.

A time capsule was also buried in the school grounds to give children of the future an insight into what life at the school is like today.

Among the items put in the capsule were photographs, programmes, a video of the school, and pupils' pictures and stories about a rocking horse which has been at the school since the 1920s.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH - SATURDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1998

75TH ANNIVERSARY - 1ST APRIL, 1998



AHOY THERE: Four-year-olds Jordan Zarac, left, and Edward Mair dressed as sailors



FOR THE FUTURE: Lower School headteacher Christine Harrison and pupils watch Matthew Barnes, right, and John Cothliff lower the time capsule into the ground



Westholme Newsletter



Spring 1998

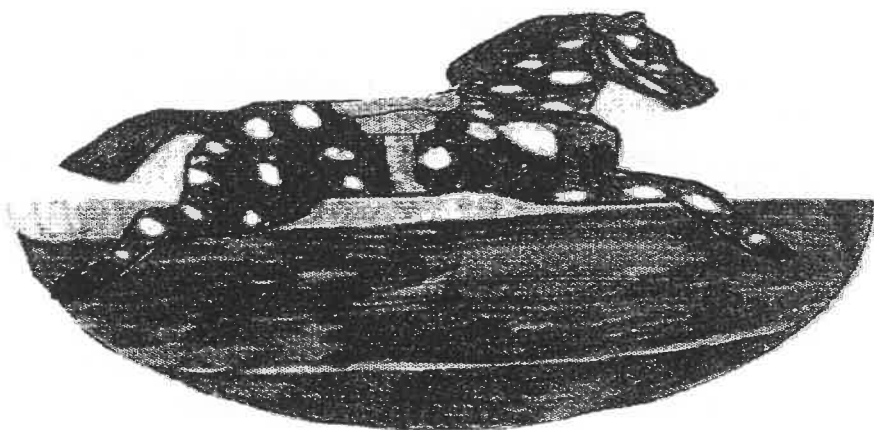
Volume 1 Issue 1

1923-1998 Anniversary Celebrations

When Miss Emily Singleton opened the doors of her school on 18th April, 1923, in the Wesleyan Chapel on Preston New Road, she can hardly have imagined that the birthday party, seventy five years later, would require cake and a present for more than one thousand children. In fact it has needed three cakes, one for each School. As for the present, all the girls and young boys are bringing home a commemorative mug. Special events are running throughout the year but April 1st was the date chosen for the birthday itself.

Happy Birthday, Westholme! 75 today

Billinge House, now home to our youngest children, of course, has had the historical edge on us all. The house was acquired by Miss Singleton in 1930. By then her school had been given its name. 'Westholme' was the name of her parents' home at 167 Preston New Road. She briefly kept her School there between 1926 and 1930 because it had swiftly outgrown its first location in the Wesleyan Chapel. Bilinge House offered more space to grow and had the grounds for games. So by 1930, Westholme was well on its way. It was at Bilinge House that our oldest serving member of staff was found! Dobbin, the Rocking Horse, has been giving the children rides for the past seventy years. He belonged to Miss Singleton's nieces and nephews.



Dobbin: drawn by Gillian Griffiths Form 2S Bilinge House

They were among her earliest pupils. Mrs. Helen Whittaker (née Singleton) returned to Bilinge House to be reunited with the horse she had not seen for some sixty years. There she joined the youngest children who had all dressed up in Twenties' fashions for the day and who enjoyed their special lunch, followed by birthday cake. In the afternoon they buried in the garden a time capsule which was filled with 'memorabilia' of the school as it is now, as seen by the children and it included their stories about their rocking horse. Dobbin always stayed at Bilinge House, even when Miss Singleton sold her school in 1950 to returning war hero, Arthur Rouse, who, with his wife, Betty, became its next Principal. The School, though, was on the move again and, after a brief stay at 'Garth' on St. Silas' Road, the seniors moved into Beardwood Bank, with Mrs. Rouse as their Headteacher in 1957.

Beardwood Bank houses the Middle School who have celebrated April 1st by showing off their skills in line dancing and enjoying the 'activities' which are so much a part of the fun in the Easter Term. To mark the anniversary in particular they have been making 75th birthday badges.

As a building, Wilmar Lodge is really the baby of the family having been acquired as recently as 1968. When the Upper School moved in, it looked very different from now; the main teaching classrooms, dining hall, sports hall, swimming pool, science labs, sports fields, music centre, art block have all been added since. The newest addition is, of course, the Theatre and Assembly Hall, which will have its official opening later in the year.

At Wilmar Lodge, April 1st looked West to Ireland in the morning and back at Westholme itself in the afternoon. The morning saw us all taking part in

