

F O R E W O R D

By the Reverend A.B. Nelson
Rector of Upplowman and Chairman of the Managers.

It is with very great pleasure that I write this
Foreword to the Centenary Souvenir of Upplowman V.P. School.

A hundred years is a long time, and for a village
school to have survived the many changes which have taken
place in educational thinking during that period is, in
itself, a great tribute to all those who have worked so
hard to set and maintain the high educational standards for
which the school has been renowned for many years.

Schools in this country were first started by the
Church, and the Church has always maintained her interest
in education. Although Upplowman School is now maintained
by the Local Education Authority there still remains a
close and happy relationship with the Church, and every
effort is made to instil into the pupils the teachings of
the Christian faith and to give them a firm basis from
which to go forward in later years.

May the school continue its good work for another
hundred years !

History of Uplozman School

"Before 1874"

The Visitation Returns mention no school in the Parish apart from a 'private' one in 1764 and in 1821. But the 1818 Parliamentary Returns show no school of any sort, not even a Sunday School, though "the poor are desirous of the means of instruction".

The first definite evidence comes with the 1833 Parliamentary Returns, which show:

day school established 1827, 21 children

day school established 1829, 28 children

Sunday School established 1832, 50 children.

These schools were all supported by contributions, as well as fees, and were therefore of a 'public' character. The 1839 Report of the Diocesan Board of Education implies that the above schools had by then amalgamated into a single 'day and Sunday school', in union with the National Society.

The school first received a government capitation grant in 1860, and must therefore by that date have had a certificated teacher. By 1862 at least, it had a pupil-teacher as well. It's Log Book thus opens immediately on the coming into effect of the Revised Code in 1863. The Headmistress at that time was Mrs Ann Horwood.

The 1870 Parliamentary Returns describe the old premises, in a loft over the stables at Uplozman House, formerly the Rectory, as having accommodation for 97 children (@ 10sq. ft. per pupil), but as attended by only 22 boys and 12 girls. The enquiry must have picked a bad day, since the Log Book shows the attendances normally in the forties.

On 16th. July 1874, the last day in the old schoolroom, the children sang the "Farewell Song" before leaving.

Other points of interest in the pre. 1874 school are the obvious fact of the school being run on a very tight budget which could afford to employ only newly-certificated Mistresses, nearly all of whom could be expected to leave for a better-paid post soon after they had received their 'parchment' after two successful years teaching. Nevertheless their quality on the whole was quite respectable. Several of them appear to have been of local origin, and no less that three former Mistresses, (two of whom were here before 1863) appeared to grace the opening of the new school. This suggests local ties, bearing in mind the poor roads and transport facilities in rural areas at that time.

Sarah Mattock, who succeeded Mrs. Horwood in 1867 until 1870 and who later became Mrs. Willis, appeared to be local as her parents visited the school and another Mattock was a pupil.

Jane Ware, who was in charge of the school from January 1871 until December 1872 was almost certainly a local girl as she was a pupil-teacher here before going to Salisbury Training College.

In 1863, Night School, under the 1863 Code, was held by Sarah Mattock and Jane Ware, though it can hardly have been worth the effort. In the 1869/70 winter, with 6 pupils present, it netted only 35s. in Grant and the following year with only 5 present, £1 3s. 4d.

Throughout the period the Rectors took an active and regular interest in the school, particularly the Rev. C.S. Bere. Children were frequently kept in after school for lateness, bad behaviour and poor work. Frequent visits were made to the Church for services, including a day set aside by the Archbishop for "Intercession for the heathens" on 3rd. November 1873. Great emphasis was placed on the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the Catechism, Hymns etc.

In 1871 a French lady, M^{lle}. Reymonds visited the school and charmingly entered her enthusiastic appreciation in the Log in French!

The following extracts from the Log are interesting:

1864 "Examined the school preparatory (sic) to the Examination"

"Infants very dificient (sic) in their reading".

1866 "Dictated Bays and Capes of England to Class 1 for home

lesson". "Allowed the whole school to sing tables from 2.30 - 3.00".

1867 "Black Book for names of naughty boys".

(Two boys birched by the Vicar for ill-conduct)

Opening of the New National School in 1874

Extract from the Log Book, 17th. July 1874:-

Opening of New Schools:

Service was held at 3.00 p.m. - the band preceeding the children to the Church - Sermon preached by the Rev. S.H. Berkeley, M.A., Vicar of Morebath and Rural Dean. Collection made in aid of the Building Fund. A procession was made of Band, Choir, Clergy, School Committee and children from Church to school.

A short service was held there: after which the Rector read an abstract of the Deed by which the School Site was conveyed in Trust to the Bishop. By this Deed the religious education was defined to be definitely that of the Church of England: The Rector for the time being, being the Chairman of the Committee: the Master and Mistress being a member of the Church of England.

The names of the Managing Committee were read, viz:

C.A.W. Troyte Esq.

Mr. T. Pearce.

Mr. R. Pearce

Mr. E. Chave.

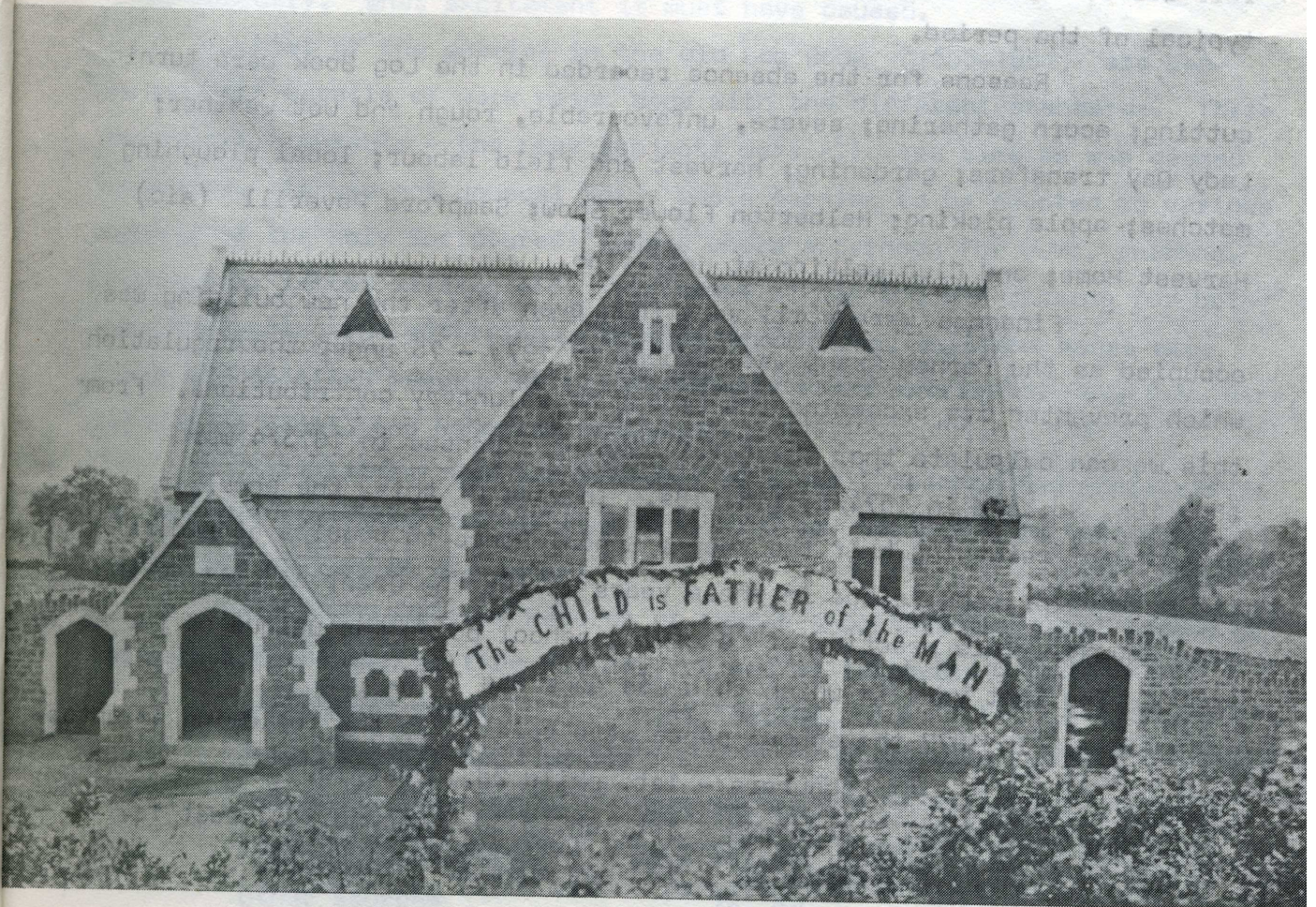
Mr. A. Bucknell

Mr. R. Isaac.

Rev. C.A. Bere (Chairman)

C.A.W. Troyte Esq. then declared the Schools open.

The remainder of the day was occupied with School treat for the children, supper for the parents, a Concert on the hill near the Rectory and general recreation.



New National School at Uplowman, ready for opening in 1874

Life in the New Schoolroom

The 17th. July 1874 was a Friday, so the first day actually in the new building was Monday 20th. July. This was just over a year after the contractor had visited the Headmistress in the old school on the 11th July 1873. The foundation stone for the new building was laid on 7th. August 1873; school dismissed at 11.30 a.m. and there was a school treat for the children.

The teachers and staff must have looked forward to the completion of the new building and preparations for its occupation began on 4th, May 1874, when the pictures were taken down to be cleaned, for the new school. On June 24th. 1874, the children began practising the special songs for the opening of the New School and on June 30th. the names of the parents were counted for the opening. New long towels were received for the classroom on 9th. July!

The New School accommodated 127 and cost £800, of which £140 from Government Grant and £14 from the Diocesan Board. The average attendance hardly ever exceeded half the number provided for. The number roll was 97 but an exceptionally good week's average was 66 - a discrepancy typical of the period.

Reasons for the absence recorded in the Log Book were turning out cutting; acorn gathering; severe, unfavourable, rough and wet weather; Lady Day transfers; gardening; harvest and field labour; local ploughing matches; apple picking; Halberton Flower Show; Sampford Peverill (sic) Harvest Home; and Club Walking at Halberton.

Finances were still very thin even after the new building was occupied as the Earned Grant was reduced in 1873 - 75 under the regulations which prevented its exceeding the amount of voluntary contributions. From this we can calculate that the total running expenses in 1873/4 were £56. 10s. 8d. and in 1874/5, £78. 18s. In view of this, the peculiar practice of returning half the year's School Pence to regular attenders is the more surprising, since in these years it cut the Grant as well by the same amount. This practice of returning school pence was unique as far as known. The last year in which this was done was 1876.

In 1877 the school pence were raised, to the following amounts:

Labourers - 1st. child 2d., rest 1d.

Tradesmen - 1st. child 3d., second 2d., rest 1d.

Farmers - 5s. per quarter throughout.

This last rate represented in effect 5d. a week irrespective of the number of children and was unusually high for a village school.

The playground was of course unsurfaced and the older children had garden plots around the edge. Great pride was taken in these plots. In 1875 James Elworthy was severely punished and his school garden taken away from him for having taken flowers which did not belong to him. The Rector made him write the 8th. commandment 200 times.

The active and regular interest of the Vicar is note-worthy. Most did a lot for their schools, but the Rev. C.S. Bere conducted regular detailed examinations and gave money prizes for attendance and for passing all three R's in the Annual Examination. His wife and son also made frequent visits to the school and helped with the teaching if the teachers were absent.

On October 1st. 1875 the first Harvest Service took place in the New School. Dinner was provided for the men in the old classroom, and tea for the women in the new school. The children had a penny given to each of them!

In 1876 a Magic Lantern show was given in the old schoolroom on 18th. February. What excitement it must have caused.

Most of the entries in the old Log Book (1863-1884) are concerned with details of work being done with the different standards. There was no set timetable - the weak subjects were allotted time as was deemed necessary. It was not unusual for a whole morning to be devoted to various aspects of the Holy Scriptures: and a whole afternoon for sums, reading, needlework, letter writing etc. The times of opening and closing for both sessions varied too according to weather conditions, daylight hours etc. There are detailed reports of all examinations and entries by Rev. C.S. Bere reports by H.M.I. and Diocesan inspectors.

The Headmistress was assisted by a pupil teacher and monitresses. In 1884 she gave them instructions from 7.00 am. onwards. In 1883 a monitress' pay was £4 per annum!

The Parliamentary Returns of 1888-9 show that the total income of the school had risen to £106 8s. 5d., raised as follows:-

Government Grant	£47 13s.10d.
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Subscriptions or	
voluntary rate	£44 2s. 6d.

Fees (school pence)	£14 4s. 7d.
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Other sources	7s. 6d.
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With an average attendance of 65, this amounted to rather less than £1 13s. per pupil. With the more generous infusion of Government money in the 1890's, the amount should have risen further. But in 1903 the Headmistress's salary was still only £55 and house and fuel.

With reference to money it is interesting to note nine children were sent home on 3rd. February 1880 for not paying their "Schooling" ie: their school pence. In 1883 Attendance Cards were issued, to be filled in fortnightly. Each child making 400 attendances to receive 2s., 350 1s. 6d. and 300 1s., less $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for every time late for prayers.

In June 1875 several boys were reprimanded for being late for afternoon school as they had stayed too long at the bathing pond. One wonders where it was!

Changes in the early Twentieth Century

There seems little evidence of change during the first ten years of this century. Although the headteacher's salary no longer depended on the 'Payment by results' system after 1890, the grant partly depended on the numbers passing in 'Class Subjects' like Geography and Needlework. After 1903, when the County took over the schools, it abolished the practice of headteachers still being paid by grant-share according to the size and proficiency of their school. This resulted in an increasingly liberal educational outlook; drawing lessons began and recreation periods were allowed!

The practice of recording reasons for absences in detail however continued, as these were necessary when calculating the sum of "Bonus" money which was presented every December to those children who had made the required number of attendances. Also the average attendance figures were needed when assessment of salaries for teachers and staffing ratios were considered. When the weekly attendances were very low due to epidemics or severe weather the averages were not recorded as the effect on salaries would have been too lowering. It seems unfair to us that the teachers had to work the requisite number of hours and days in the year and yet suffer salary-wise due to the absence of pupils, often for quite unnecessary reasons.

Some reasons for absence quoted in the 20th. century as different to those earlier on were Old Christmas Day (6th. January), mangold picking for boys and poultry picking for girls, market days, and specifically, on 7th. December 1903 "Elder boys drive cattle to Tiverton Market". In the Spring

of 1904 colds and coughs are mentioned; and in 1919 bad chilblains on the feet.

The Report and Accounts for the 1904 Grant assessed in December 1903, are interesting. They are as follows:-

Average attendance on which Grant is payable	-	68
Principal grant	-	£74.16.0d.
Grant under Article 105	-	£10. 0.0d.
The Grant of the Average Attendance 68 @ 10s.	-	£34. 0.0d.
Total sum payable - Former Managers	-	£84.10.10d.
" " " - New Authority	-	£10. 4. 8d.
Deduct contributions of Certificated		
Teacher (Superannuation)	-	£4. 0. 8d.
Net Sum Payable: Former Managers	-	£80.18.2d.
New Authority	-	£ 9.17.4d.

The "New Authority" refers to the Devon County Authority which took over schools in 1903.

Holidays became longer and occasional days more frequent. There were closures for clearing the school room for Dances, choir outings, "Band of Hope" outings and Royal Weddings etc. A whole weeks holiday was given in June 1911 for the coronation of King George V.

As costs increased the Voluntary boards of Managers found difficulty in maintaining their schools efficiently. Also they could not meet their obligations over buildings, though their responsibilities were confined to the exterior only after 1903. Therefore schools were gradually transferred to the County. This had obviously happened here by 1907, when instructions were received that the school should be called 'Uplowman School No. 501.

From 1910 onwards one is aware of an increasing interest in other aspects of the children in addition to educational progress, and attainment. On September 20th. 1910, the first medical inspection took place. It was discovered that 40% of the children in Devon had lice, but the first mention of a school nurse examining heads in Uplowman was not until 1917. In 1916 the school dentist visited for the first time; and in 1918 the older children had their sight tested. Whether this inspection was isolated or not is unknown, but it was not until March 3rd. 1924 that glasses were issued - or at any rate their issue was recorded - thus - "Glasses (Spectacles) received for Gladys Brice!"

Little is recorded of the effect of the First World War on the school. Frequent collections for the Overseas Club are mentioned. On Empire Day in 1915, kept on Friday 21st. May "The Empire Appeal to British boys and girls, from the Earl of Meath, to bring a penny to send gifts to our Soldiers and Sailors." Children responded eagerly and the sum of 113 pennies - 9/5 was collected - 12/- sent, the same day". On July 16th. 8s. was sent to the French Relief Fund and on 17th. December 10s. "to overseas Collection for Xmas gifts to our soldiers". In 1916 an epidemic of Scarlet Fever broke out and the school was closed on 10th. and 11th. of February to be thoroughly disinfected.

In 1918 on 25th. April 104 eggs given or collected by the children were sent to the Lady Mayoress of Exeter to be sold, in order to provide parcels for Devon Prisoners of War.

In 1920 Miss Emma Searchfield resigned after 31 years as Headmistress. There were several changes of Headmistresses in the early 1920's but little change in general policy.

In 1921 the gallery steps were removed and a new floor and desks were put in the Infant classroom. This was a considerable step forward as for many years the older infants had been on raised platforms in order that the Pupil teacher or Monitress could see them easily and to save space. In December of the same year parents were invited into the school for the first time, to see the children's work and the distribution of the prizes and to hear some carols.

Scholarship regulations were first received in 1922 and in 1923 the school was affiliated with the National Savings Association. Also in the same year reports of the pupil's progress were issued for the first time.

In November 1923 some flannel was left by the Rector to be distributed among certain parents. Presumably some interest was taken by certain people in the parish to provide warm materials for the more needy parishioners, which shows the interest in the physical welfare of the children within the school was being reflected outside. The first delivery of Lifebuoy toilet soap in 1924 was underlined in red ink in the current Log Book!

The interest in health education was maintained by the introduction of "Drill" into the timetable - it was referred to as Physical Culture Instructions! This was in 1926 and in 1927 a school nurse gave Health talks to the children. In the same year "requisites for school

dinners" were discussed - presumably for those children who lived some distance away and who would like to bring their lunches rather than undertake journeys at dinner time. This shortened the lunch hour; and thus schools were able to close before 5.00p.m., as had been the custom. In the same year, 1927, a Welfare Centre at Tiverton is also mentioned. Miss A.M. Rolfe was Headmistress of the school from 1923-1930. When she resigned on 31st. March, four supply Heads were employed at Uplowman before the permanent appointment on 29th. September of Vera Court-Hampton. This meant there were 6 different Heads in one year! Mrs. Court-Hampton incidentally, was the immediate predecessor to Miss Yeoman, who took over on 30th. September 1935.

Mrs. Court-Hampton appears to have been interested in physical education as she writes of having received Games apparatus in 1930; and in 1931 she acquired the use of a neighbouring field for organised games. On 30th. July the children had their first ever Sports Day. On 17th. September of the same year, the "First Aid Box" was received. Perhaps with the introduction of games and sports, it was necessary! But it is interesting to note how such everyday things to us were considered of sufficient importance to be entered in the Log Book at that time.

In 1933 on 27th. January, the school temperature was only 36° at 2 p.m. so lessons were interrupted by P.T. exercises to keep the children warm! In the same year the Inter-School Sports were held at Uffculme (Primary School?).

In 1937, 1938 and 1939 "Epidemic Disease" was very prevalent in the district, causing very low percentages of attendance. The Medical Officer of Health was informed.

Before the Second World War broke out Miss Yeoman worked hard, by organising concerts and whist drives, to purchase a new piano for the school. The piano cost £31 15s. 0d., £24. 5s. being collected by Miss Yeoman and the balance of £7 10s. being paid by the Education Authority.

Changes and Effects of the Second World War

The first reference to wartime conditions was on 5th. April 1940 when the children's respirators were inspected.

On 17th. June 29 children and 1 teacher from Barking Education Authority were admitted to the school under the Government's Official Evacuation Scheme; and on 19th. June 10 girls from Bow (London County Council) joined them. The number on roll on 26th. June was 71, Devon 31 and Evacuees 40. They were divided into three groups as follows:-

	Devon	Evacuees	Total	Teacher
Infants	11	9	20	Miss Cleeve
Juniors	11	12	23	Miss Paton (London)
Seniors	10	18	28	Miss Yeoman

The Junior Class was taught in the Church Room. The school remained open all August for the children's holiday campaign and the teachers had only a fortnight's holiday each, arranged so two were always on duty. On August 20th. the London County Council Sister visited the school and carried out a routine inspection of the heads etc. of the London Official Evacuee Children. She visited the school again on October 8th. and examined all the children, both Devon and Evacuees, which seems much more sensible!

On 24th. February 1941, 15 Evacuees from Bristol were admitted and the school was kept open in the Easter holidays. On 27th. June two stirrup pumps were received, the danger of incendiary devices becoming more acute. As was the case in so many areas the evacuees gradually left in small numbers to return to their homes, an unwise move in many cases. Some, however, stayed at the school for 5 years and did not return home until after V.E. Day on 8th. May 1945.

Although arrangements for school meals were discussed in March 1943 and equipment for same arrived in June, the Schools Meals Service did not begin until 14th. May 1945. They came from Tiverton Central Canteen until September 1954 when they were cooked and dispatched from Sampford Peverell School canteen.

In 1943 the children were given a talk on the importance of salvage; and they collected £145. 3s. 6d. for "Wings for Victory" week. They also supported "Salute the Soldier" week in May 1944. On 15th. June, 1943 Sir Travers Clarke called at the school and congratulated the children for their magnificent response to the "Wings for Victory" appeal.

Throughout the war years many official and unofficial evacuees spent various periods of time in the school which must have made the teaching very difficult. What a happy day it was when the Peace Treaty to end the war was signed; and the school was closed for two days, 8th. and 9th. May 1945 to celebrate the occasion.

On 14th. October 1946, the Milk-in - School Scheme began. It was delivered in large "harvest cans" (capacity 3 gallons) and was supplied by Mr. Britton of Sellake until 12th. April 1948, when it was supplied in $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. bottles (pasteurised) by the Wellington Co-operative Society.

A major change took place from 21st. April 1947 when all Senior pupils were to transfer to Tiverton Heathcoat Senior School. Upplowman school was to be a Primary school only from that date. The number on roll was then 34.

In 1948 the regional water supply was first used in the school on 25th. October, and it was not until the Easter holidays in 1952 that the school was wired for electric light.

Road Safety was first mentioned in 1950 when a police officer visited the school to talk about it and to examine the bicycles on 22nd. March, it being "Children's Safety Week".

School Transport, a car, was begun on 26th. February 1951 but it was not until 14th. December 1959, shortly before the closure of Huntsham school in 1960, that the school bus began operating from Upplowman/Fair Oak. There were 10 pupils on the official list.

The Chief Education Officer, Mr. W.E. Philip, visited the school on 10th. March 1952; and on 27th. October of the same year Mrs. E. Pinsent commenced her duties as cleaner and canteen helper. She was the school cleaner for 13 years and is still canteen helper after 21 years service.

On 18th. June 1953 all the children were taken to the Tivoli cinema in Tiverton to see "Elizabeth is Queen". A school radio was received in November of the same year.

More organisation took place in 1954 when the school was designated Upplowman (Controlled) School, No.3094, for future reference. From July all the leavers were to go to Uffculme Modern Secondary School, instead of Tiverton.

Several improvements took place between 1955 and 1958 including the installing of six new lavatory pans and the building of a teacher's toilet. New gates were fixed in the yard and new Alicon stoves in the schoolrooms. The bell-tower was removed in the Summer holidays of 1957 as it was unsafe and the school received a record player the following year.

1959 brought the first of the Royal visitors to Upplowman House recorded in the Log Book. At 10.15 a.m. on 16th. March Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed by the school and waved "Goodbye" to the children.

In 1962 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother stopped at the school, was introduced to the teachers and spoke to the children for several minutes on the 5th. March. We were honoured when she repeated the procedure on 5th. May 1967.

On Saturday 26th. April 1969, 25 pupils and 5 ex-pupils went on a ten mile sponsored walk to raise money for the "National Society for the Mentally Handicapped Children". As a result of this event £45 was collected. Later in the year we heard that the Queen Mother was visiting her neice, the Hon. Margaret Rhodes, at Upplowman House in Mid-July. On realising Her Majesty the Queen Mother was Royal Patron of the "National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children", the Head Boy and Girl wrote to Clarence House, asking if the Queen Mother would accept the cheque when she visited Upplowman. This Her Majesty graciously agreed to do, providing her impending visit was kept a closely guarded secret. The secret was kept until Her Majesty's visit on 15th. July 1969 when she once again stopped at the school, received the cheque and spoke to the children, to whom she said, "I congratulate you. Well done!" Her Majesty paid her final visit to the school on 2nd. July, 1973 when she said "Goodbye", to us all.

Photo-copy of the letter received from Clarence House on 17th. July, 1969, on next page.

In the severe winter of 1963 the school, in common with many other rural schools in the country, was closed for much of January and February. In 1965 Miss. Yeoman retired after 30 years service in the school.

Recent years have brought many changes in the school, both structural and academic. On 1st. December 1966 the 5-7+ group of children moved out of the cramped classroom they had occupied for over 90 years, into the modern temporary building which has accommodation for 30 pupils.

Also in 1966 a P.T.A. was formed, now known as 'The Upplowman School Association' and it was decided to introduce a school uniform. The parents frequently visit the school for annual Harvest Festival and Carol Services, Open Evenings, various meetings, informal concerts and entertainments and to join in other activities like sponsored walks and Christmas parties etc. Some give valuable assistance, which has enabled more scope to be given to practical activities like cooking, sewing, craft work and games.

The boys have a seven aside football team; and in 1970 were successful in winning all of their matches in the tournaments at Cullompton C.P. School. Their success was due to the help and training they received from Mr. P. Bolt, who helped with the football for 7 years, from 1967 - 1974.

The "champion" football team.



The girls too did well at netball, particularly in 1968. In recent years there have not been sufficient 3rd. and 4th. year girls to form a proper team. All the children have taken part, with considerable success, in the Culm Valley Inter-school Sports, which have taken place annually since 1968.

Our successful Sports and games were solely due to the generosity of Mr. D. Rhodes, of Uplowman House, a former School Manager, who lent us a section of one of his fields in June 1967. We are grateful to Mr. Rhodes, who has since sold his property and left the area, for securing future use of the field for us by the inclusion of a clause in the deed of sale "Whereby the field remains a playing field as long as the school exists". In recognition of their help and interest in the school from 1952-1973, a period of 21 years, a presentation was made to Mr. & Mrs. Rhodes by the Rector, the Rev. A.B. Nelson, on behalf of the Managers, Parents, Staff and children. This took place after the Hon. Mrs. M. Rhodes had presented the cups and trophies to the winning children on the Seventh Annual Sports Day in July 1973.

In September 1967, television was introduced into the school. The rental of the set was paid by the P.T.A. until May 1971, when a schools-type Radio Rentals set was installed by the County Education Office.

The children have also taken part in Country Dance Festivals and have put on several displays at various events in the village, wearing the "Tie and Dye" skirts they made and which have been much admired.



Country Dance Team - January 1974.

Educational excursions take place every year to various places of interest. Some involve small groups, others involve parents, friends and former pupils. The children have also been to the residential camps at Sheldon; and camped under canvas at Clovelly.

Various people have visited the school to talk to the children including foreigners and teachers from other schools. What a great contrast education in Uplowman today, with improved facilities of every kind, is to the existence led in pre. 1874 days in a dark, cold room over the vicarage stables! There the children were taught the 3R's and little else until they were 14 or were able to pass the Labour Examination. Now they have a full range of activities until they are 11, when they can look forward to the future - and Comprehensive Education with equal opportunities for all - from September 1974.

J. Carter.