

INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 1983, I was tidying out some cupboards in the former school library area, when I discovered the old Log Books and Admission Registers of the Alvey School. During the next four months, I quickly read through them, and realised what a treasure trove of information they are, so much so that I was motivated to revive the Empire Day celebrations in 1984, for which I wrote a brief history of the school. At that time, I was privileged to talk to Mrs Eliza Walker, Mrs Margaret Muxlow, Mr Frank Sidy and the late George Bennett, Tom Wollerton and his sister Nora, who gave me much information from their time as former pupils of the school. When I took early retirement at the end of 1992, I promised to do more work on the history of the Alvey: however, retirement has been very busy! When Ian Douglas told me of his decision to retire as headmaster, I decided that I must do something to recognise what will be the end of another eventful chapter in our school's long history. This expanded "History" is the result. A full history would go into several volumes, but I offer this work in the hope that it will interest all the friends of William Alvey's School and the Alvey staff, and children who over the past 5 years since I retired have always made me feel still part of the school. To the above mentioned former scholars and to Donald Beavis, to whom I am indebted for much information about his sister Mary; to my wife Susan, who has always supported me in everything I have done at the Alvey; and to all former members of the school staff and children, who have worked with me and for me, I say "Thank you, everyone." I give special thanks to Alison Bryan who typed out my manuscript, and to Jane Lea for her work on the artistic features of this booklet.

Peter Thornton. March 1998

WILLIAM ALVEY'S SCHOOL, SLEAFORD

I. ALVEY'S CHARITY SCHOOL.

If you happen to be in Eastgate, Sleaford on a Thursday afternoon in early July, you will see a long procession of children, walking two by two with their teachers, from the William Alvey School to the parish church of St. Denys. Join the children, teachers and parents inside the church for their act of worship and you will see one of those simple, yet moving ceremonies which are a part of our English heritage. After some words of explanation by the headteacher, a boy and a girl, chosen from each class in the school, and each carrying a posy of summer flowers, walk up into the chancel, beyond the choir stalls, and give their flowers to the vicar. He arranges them neatly round the edge of

a black memorial stone set into the floor of the church. Hymns are sung, prayers are said, and the children leave the church, to wend their way home in the sunshine.

Alvey Day has been celebrated once again, so the Summer holidays are not far off!

The tombstone set in the church floor tells us that William Alvey died on 10th August, 1729, at the age of 60. He was a merchant and a gentleman, who had lived from about 1700 in a fine house in Northgate, Sleaford, a house which still stands as part of Lloyds Bank. You can see his wife's initials, EA., over the handsome, but now blocked, front doorway. William was quite a wealthy man and was obviously

interested in education, for he was the Bursar of Carre's Grammar School, Sleaford, for several years. He was also a churchwarden of St. Denys' Church, a Christian man, who felt the need to do something to help the poor children of the town. In those days, it was usually only the sons of the more wealthy families who went to school, while ordinary boys and girls were uneducated, unable to read or write. When William made his will, signed and dated 26th August 1726, he decided that after his death a new school should be set up in Sleaford. He gave part of the income from 53 acres of farmland at Fishtoft, near Boston, to the vicar of Sleaford and to 6 other trustees, for them to use to pay for the teaching of some poor children of Sleaford to read, write, sew and knit.

We know so very little about the school all those years ago. Very probably the boys

and girls would meet, with their teachers, in a corner of St. Denys' Church. In those times, schools were often held in church. What was unusual, though, was that girls went to the school. The Alvey has always been forward looking! Every year, on 21st August, the whole school attended a service in the church, when the Vicar received £2 for preaching a sermon in remembrance of William Alvey. The trustees of the charity met on the same day, to settle their accounts, and in the evening the children, teachers and trustees attended a special feast. Here we have the origin of Alvey Day!

Various other bequests were made over the years, which helped the children who attended the school. In 1770, Mrs Ann Ashby left £20 and Sir John Thorold left £5, to pay for Bibles and spellings books. James Harryman left the interest on £100 every year to pay for shoes and stockings for the very needy children.

A hundred years later, in the 1830s, the master and mistress of Alvey's Charity School were each being paid £20 a year, quite a reasonable sum in those days. The school had by this time moved out of the church, and the boys and girls were separated, as they were to be for many

more years. The Alvey Boys' School met in a rented building behind Mr Nightscale's chemist's shop in Eastgate, to the east of the present White and Sentance's Piano Showrooms, while the Alvey Girls' School was to be found in a room down the old Carre Arms Yard, behind where the Slow Boat Chinese Restaurant now is, in Southgate. At that time, £10 was spent on the annual dinner for the children and trustees. Since you could buy a meat pie for some 2 pence in those days, the Alvey Day meal must have been a feast worth remembering!

II. Alvey's National Schools, Eastgate.

The Buildings.

In 1800, the population of Sleaford was about 1500. The Census for 1851 showed a total of 3676 people in the town. There were over a hundred households with 8 or more people, and 50 families with 6 or more children living at home. To a visitor in those days, Sleaford must have seemed very much a town of children and young people.

In 1811, the Church of England had set up the National Society, an organisation to build and run schools for poorer children in many towns and villages throughout England. It was therefore quite natural that the Trustees of the Alvey's Charity School, under the guidance of the Vicar, Rev. Richard Yerburgh, should turn to this

society for help and encouragement when they decided to build a brand new school to meet the educational needs of Sleaford's growing number of working-class children. Lord Bristol, Sleaford's chief landowner, gave the land on which the school was to be built, right on the edge of the town, in Eastgate. The Privy council for Education made a grant of £154, and the rest of the money, about £1000, was raised by public subscription. Building works started in 1851, and the children were able to move in during January 1852.

In 1847, W E Kendall, a London architect, who had earlier designed the Sessions House and Carre's Hospital in Sleaford, produced an album of designs for schools and school houses, mainly in the Tudor and Jacobean styles. It seems very probable that his drawings were followed

when the new Alvey School, with its Dutch gables and leaded diamond-paned windows, was built. The headmaster's house was in the centre, facing down a grassy lawn to the road, with a schoolroom on either side, the one for the girls on the east side, and the one for the boys on the west.

At first there were just 2 teachers, a master and a mistress, each in charge of their own separate school. The master was paid £60 a year and the mistress £30. There was no equal pay for men and women in those days! Although each school room was designed for 100 children, at first the numbers on roll were quite low, there being 41 boys and 49 girls in 1855. However, numbers gradually rose, so that 10 years later there were 189 boys and 92 girls. The Boys' School must have been very overcrowded. The problem of

over-large classes is nothing new! Of course, one teacher could not possibly teach a class of that size, so the monitorial system was used, whereby the older children (monitors) taught different groups of younger children, while the teacher acted as a supervisor and examiner. Much of the work which the children did was simple reading, writing and arithmetic (The Three Rs). The children were tested by the teacher in charge before they were allowed to go on to the next group. Later on the monitors were known as pupil teachers.

Each schoolroom was roughly the same size as the first two teaching areas on either side of the present Computer Suite. (The Ark). With the steady growth in the number of children, it was decided to build a separate room, or school, for the Infants, where the Staff-Room and Boiler Room

are now. This held some 50 children, both boys and girls. It was actually opened on April 9, 1888, and it was sometime after that when the boys and girls changed over their respective school building, the Infants and the Girls' School using the same playground, since the girls were considered to be less rough than boys! The playground, which was at the back of the school where the hall is now, was some years later divided into two by an iron railing. Children started the Infant School as young as 3 to 4, and went into the main classes when they were 7 or 8, depending on their ability. In 1910, a new classroom was added to the Boys' School (and probably to the Girls' School). The diamond panes were gradually replaced with plain glass, and conditions inside the class-rooms, which were at this time heated by rather smelly coke-stoves, were improved by the fitting of ventilators in the

roofs. By that time, the outside of the whole school building looked very much the same as it does now, to the casual passer-by.

The days of the Nightingarls.

Mary Anne Vickers became mistress of the Girls' school in 1864. Some years later, romance was in the air, for in 1876 she married John Nightingarl, who came to be Headmaster in 1870. The school must have been very much a family affair, for their daughter, Edith Mary, was a monitor in 1892. Miss Elizabeth Ogden was in charge of the Infants' School from the time of its opening until she resigned, because of ill-health, in the summer of 1896, her place being taken by a lady called Mrs Miller. Just before the turn of the century

there took place one of those episodes in the history of the Alvey School which is something of a mystery. Mrs Nightingarl retired as Headmistress on 17 November, 1899, "leaving the school in a creditable state of efficiency after a long and faithful service." Miss Esther Bull took over the job, but by March 12, 1900, Mrs Nightingarl had resumed her duties, Miss Bull having resigned. Attendance had not been good, although it was, after all, winter time. The School-inspector, Alex Finch, reported in February that there was a great weakness in reading throughout the school. The Nightingarl family were still living in the school house! Obviously, things had been very difficult for Esther Bull. Mrs Nightingarl finally retired in July, and her daughter, Edith Mary became headmistress. The school was safely back in the family! The new headmistress, teachers and children worked hard. In

1906 an inspector wrote, "An excellent tone and spirit pervades the work of this school." It still does, 90 years later!

On 3 May, 1910, the boys walked sadly, with tears in their eyes, to St. Denys' Church, to be present at the funeral of their headmaster, John Nightingarl. He had been at the school for 40 years, and had died, still teaching. Two months later, 18 July, George Colborne Bartlett, wrote, in the Boys' School Log Book, "I took charge of this school." A new era in the life of our school as about to begin, but, before it did so, tragedy struck.

Two years later the boys, with their headmaster, attended Miss Nightingarl's funeral, on Saturday 27 April, 1912. As Mr Bartlett said, "Her sudden and terrible death was deeply deplored by both teachers and scholars." She had died on

the previous Wednesday, having been run over by a train on the railway line to the east of the town. It seems very likely that she committed suicide. It was very sad, for she was only in her early 30's. Was the strain of being a headmistress too much, was she still sorrowing over the death of her father, or did she suffer from a domineering, interfering mother? Perhaps we shall never know! For the next two months, Mr Bartlett had charge of both schools, until Mary Walls Beavis took up her post as Head Mistress, on 8 July, 1912.

"Boss" Bartlett and Miss Beavis.

Under the direction of these two people, the Alvey Boys' and Girls' Schools were brought into the Twentieth Century. It was obvious that the managers had chosen their two headteachers wisely, appointing

two well-qualified and experienced teachers, who each had very definite ideas as to how a good school should be run. "Boss" Bartlett says it all! In the Punishment Book for 1914, we read that the "Boss" caned 12 boys between May and December, for trespassing in a garden on leaving school, persistent talking, telling untruths, fighting in the street, and indecency in the playground! Yet the boys held him in high regard, as a true fatherly figure.

Miss Beavis, who was only 27 when she became headmistress, had been trained at Ripon College, and was greatly loved and admired by her girls. During the First World War, she would often appear in school wearing her Red Cross Nurse's uniform, having been on duty all night caring for wounded soldiers at a military hospital which was being run in Sleaford.

The War had its effects, too, upon the Boys' School, for two out of the five teachers, Albert Waters and Thomas Comer, went off to join the army in the early months of the fighting. Mr Bartlett found himself, at one point, in charge of a class of 100 boys, and even he admitted it was hard work! Sadly, Mr Comer was one of the thousands of young men who were killed in action against the enemy in the poppy fields of Flanders, in September, 1915. A few months later, George Comer presented to the school a photograph of his dead brother, wearing his army uniform, as a memorial to him. I wonder what happened to it?

In the nineteenth century, great emphasis had been placed on the teaching of the Bible, on reading, writing and arithmetic. There was plenty of needlework for the girls, many of whom made their own

clothes in lesson time. Poems were learned by heart, songs were sung (often, the boys and girls had singing -classes together) and dates, names and places were learned in History and Geography. The nearest thing to Science as we know it was the Object Lesson. The teacher would show an object or a picture, talk about it, and then the children would draw it. The objects included such things as an apple, a camel, a lump of coal, and a cup and saucer!

Miss Beavis and Mr Bartlett greatly widened the scope of the curriculum. The girls attended cookery, laundry and child-care classes, while the boys did technical-drawing and woodwork, these lessons being taught in the newly -built Council School in Church Lane. (Woodwork actually started in 1908, in Mr Nightingarl's time). We must remember

that in these days the children stayed at the Alvey School until the age of 13 or 14, when they would leave school to go out to work. The cleverer children might win one of the few scholarships to Carre's Grammar School or the Girls' High School.

The children did not spend all their time in the classroom, for their headteachers knew very well that the outside world is a great stimulus to the imagination of boys and girls. Educational visits were arranged to St Denys' Church, the Gas Works, the Picture Drome, and Tattershall Castle. In June, 1924, many of the children went on a day-trip to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, while in July, 1927, the "boys accompanied by their teachers spent an enjoyable day at Mablethorpe," going all the way by train! Physical education had its place in the timetable, even in those days. Most of the classes went out to do

drill on the yard on fine days, even in the winter, and boys and girls went down to the open air swimming-baths for weekly lessons. Mr Ernest Pearson joined the staff of the Boys' School in 1930, and under his training the football team won every match in the 1931-32 season, winning the Sleaford and District Schools' League Final on Saturday, 18 April, 1932. The school was given a cup, and each member of the team received a silver medal from Mr W Phipps, the Chief Education Officer for Kesteven County Council.

No wonder the men and women who had been to the Alvey Boys' and Girls' Schools in those years looked back on their school days with pride! Their pride was clouded with sadness, however, when Mr Bartlett was taken ill at the end of April, 1934. He died on 22 May and Miss Maud Wood,

who had taught at the school for some 8 years, became Acting Head Teacher for the rest of the year. Great changes were in the air at that time, for the schools of Sleaford and Quarrington. On 7, January 1935, Miss Wood wrote, "The Alvey Boys' School ceased its existence today. The boys who are 11 years of age are to be transferred to the council Senior Mixed School. The boys who are under 11 years of age are to be transferred to the Alvey Junior Mixed School when it opens tomorrow, under the headship of Miss Beavis." The Girls' School had also ceased to be. The Alvey Girls and Boys at last came together: I'm sure the boys must have felt they were being taken over. They were, fortunately by a lady who was exactly right for the job!

"Boss" Bartlett is not forgotten. If you visit the Children's Corner in St Denys' Church,

you will find a little wooden stool, made of oak, and carved with flower patterns. On it is a brass plate, which says that it was made by the boys of the woodwork class, in memory of George Colborne Bartlett, headmaster of the William Alvey Boys' School. A fitting tribute to a respected man!

The Sunday School.

In the first part of the century, many of the children who attended the Alvey Boys' and Girls' Schools through the week from Monday to Friday, also went along to the Alvey Sunday School. The first session of this began at 10 o'clock in the morning, and finished in time for the children to walk in twos down to the 11 o'clock service at St. Denys' Church. Many of the boys and girls also went in the afternoon, at 2 o'clock, for another hour or so! The classes

were quite small, with about 12 children in each one. Bible stories were read and told, and the Apostles' Creed and the Catechism were learnt, off by heart. Sometimes visitors, such as missionaries, would come and talk about life for children in far-away countries such as India or China. Once a year, the Sunday School would meet for its Prize-Giving Service in St. Denys'. The children who had made a good number of attendances through the year were given perhaps a story-book, a prayer-book, or, for the older children, a Bible.

From what I can gather, most of the children enjoyed going to the Sunday School, especially the older girls, who came to think of their teachers as real friends, people they could trust and confide in. Whether or not the older boys appreciated it so much, I'm not sure. On

several occasions, Mr Bartlett had to complain about the behaviour of the boys. For example, on Monday, 23 February, 1913, he wrote, "Several drawing copies which had been exhibited on the wall of the large room were spoiled by boys attending the Sunday School, yesterday." Boys have always been boys, especially when Boss Bartlett wasn't about!

III. The Alvey Junior Mixed School, 1935-1938

On the morning of 8 January, 1935, Miss Beavis became headmistress of the Alvey Junior Mixed School, and the Alvey School, as we know it, came into being. The schools of Sleaford and Quarrington were re-organised, so that the Alvey now had 255 boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11. The Infants and older children now went to their own schools in the town. Until then, children between the ages of 3 and 14 had attended the Alvey. At 8.55 am, the Vicar of Sleaford, Rev. W. N. Howe visited the school, and spoke a few words of welcome to the children who were assembled on the

playground, and he said some prayers. The children then went to their seven classes with their teachers, Misses Modd, Stanyon, Willson and Wood, Mrs Easter and Messrs Pearson and Waters, who were all formerly on the Alvey School staff with the exception of Mrs Easter, who had come from Westgate Infants' School. Just over a week later, V. McInnes, Esq., H.M.I., visited the school to see how things were getting on, and at 4 o' clock that day, 17 January, was held the first staff meeting ever to be recorded. The children had been sent home from school early, for this meeting to take place!

These early years of the Alvey Junior School proved to be a time of "firsts," giving us some idea of what a go-ahead character Mary Beavis was, and recognising the changes which were taking place in education. In June, 1935, a wireless set was installed in the school, a gift from the Committee which had organised the Silver Jubilee celebrations in the town, and the children were able to listen to radio programmes about music, nature and science. Just before the children went off on their Summer holidays that year, the school had its very first open afternoon for parents and friends. There was an exhibition of needlework, handwork and drawing, a PE display, singing, and two plays were performed, one of

then being "The Mad Tea Party," from "Alice in Wonderland." Miss Beavis wrote "exercise and drawing books were carefully scrutinised by many parents." Parents are still doing the same thing over 60 years later, on Open Evenings!

In April, 1937, the large classroom in the south west corner of the school was cleared of desks, so that it could be used as an assembly hall, where the whole school could meet, and where PE, drama and dancing could take place. This meant that the classes had to be re-organised. In an interesting little note in the margin of the Log Book, written in pencil, are the classes and their sizes: - 3A, 50., 3B, 50., 2A, 50., 2B, 36.,

1A, 43., 1B, 44! Classes aren't quite so big now!

On the 6 July in that year, the School Managers held a meeting, to consider the report of His Majesty's Inspector of Schools, Miss K M Thomas, into the conditions and standards of the school. It began with a statement which is as true now as it was then: "It is the only junior school in the town, with the exception of the Roman Catholic School, and as such has an important function to fulfil." Those of us who remember the school as it was before the refurbishment programme would also agree that "the building is not altogether adapted for Junior children; cloakroom and washing accommodation are inadequate."

"The pupils are divided into A and B streams, and the A classes reach a good standard in all subjects." Some changes needed to be made in the method and approach to the slower children, "and the Headmistress is wisely considering some alterations in the curriculum which indicate her realisation of this point." "Physical education and Needlework are especially good subjects in all classes." So the Alvey had passed its 1930's equivalent of OFSTED with credit, and William Alvey's will for the teaching of needlework was being well carried out!

The War Years, 1939-1946

Through these difficult years, the life of the school went on. In November, 1938, most of the children had been issued with gas masks, against the dangers of poison gas attacks, Miss Beavis having spent two whole days making sure each child had the correct fitting! By May, 1940, the children had to bring them to school every day. Air-raid shelters were built in the playground, and the windows and glass partitions were criss-crossed with sticky tape, to prevent the splintering of glass in the event of bombs exploding nearby. The teachers and some of the older boys were taught how to use a stirrup pump, as a first aid in case of fire. Air-raid warnings were

quite frequent in the later months of 1940 and the early part of 1941, and lessons were often disrupted. The old coke stoves which heated the classrooms started to wear out, and couldn't be repaired, because of the war time shortage of spare parts. Several of the winters during the war were very cold and snowy, so children and teachers suffered. On 23 February, 1942, the average temperature in the classrooms was just 5°F, above freezing! As the war went on, the teachers found that they were having to deal with other matters than just school subjects. School dinners had to be provided, each child was given a small bottle of milk every day, children had to be measured for clothing coupons and wellington boots, and some children started to

come to school by the Lincolnshire Road Car buses.

Despite all these concerns, good things did happen. On the afternoon of 30th July, 1940, the whole school went out onto the field to hold a Sports Day, this starting a tradition which has been enjoyed throughout the years. Yellows won the cup that year: the next year, Reds beat Blues by one point. Nowadays, it always seems to be the Blues who win the Shield!

In May, 1943, the school joined the Wings for Victory Week Campaign, saving money which went towards building new aeroplanes for the Royal Air Force. £75 was the target: £33 was collected on the first day, and by the end of the week, £123, £48 over the target.

The school has always done well in supporting good causes. In the late 1970's we raised a great deal of money and interest in the Save the Children Fund, and nowadays the Community Care Club carries on this work, helping local and national appeals.

Perhaps the saddest day during the War was 22 May, 1942, when Albert Waters collapsed and died on his way home for lunch. Albert had taught at the Alvey for over 40 years, and, as we mentioned above, had gone as a volunteer to fight for King and Country in the First World War. Like so many other young men, his health never really recovered from that ordeal: he had been content to give the rest of his life in service to our school, serving in a quiet and

unassuming way under three headteachers. The Alvey must have been very much a part of the Waters family life, for his sister started as a pupil-teacher in the Girls' School in 1888, and took charge of the Infants' department in 1896.

With the ending of the war in 1945, things slowly returned to normal. However, Miss Beavis, who had been absent from school for 3 months, because of the effects of an accident, decided to retire at the end of June, 1946. The Director of Education, Dr J. W. P. Golby, Canon Waudby, the Vicar, school managers and parents and children presented her with a "bag and wallet of Treasury notes." She was 61 years old, and had given 34

years of her life in dedicated service to the school and to the children of her adopted town, Sleaford.

Mr and Mrs Dougan

As Miss Beavis retired on a Friday, so Samuel Eric Dougan took up his duties as headmaster on Monday, 1 July, 1946. Mrs Dougan joined her husband on the staff in September, becoming Deputy Head in June, 1948, when Mr Pearson retired. He had been Miss Beavis' right hand man, and had taught under Boss Bartlett. At his own request, no presentation was made to him. I wonder why?

In 1944, there had been 250 children on roll, and this number

had risen to about 315 by 1953, when 2 new classrooms were built on the far side of the playground, and a new toilet block was completed. The "new" classrooms were ex Prisoner of War camp buildings, known familiarly as the "green huts," and in use until 1990! By 1957, numbers were up to 350, and 5 out of the 9 classes had over 40 children. In September, a major building programme started, lasting through the whole of that school year. Mr Dougan wrote, "The school is being run under great difficulties." As in our latest rebuilding, the work went on around the teachers and children at their work. A new hall was built (the one we still use), a new playground laid down, and the classrooms in the

east and west wings were modernised.

In spite of all this upheaval and the large size of many of the classes, the standard of work done was kept at a high level, and excellent reports were given by the many HMI's who visited the school at this time. The teaching was obviously directed to training in the various skills relevant to the examinations for the transfer to secondary schools. In this examination (the 11+ as we know it), the Alvey School normally had 50% of its 11 year old candidates selected for the grammar schools, whereas the percentage in Kesteven as a whole was about 25%. The children who "passed" to go to Carre's or the High School were treated to

strawberries and cream on the school lawn. (As I write this, I think of a former pupil of mine. She did not pass the 11+, but is now Head of Science in a large senior school in Telford New Town!)

There were several "firsts" during Mr Dougan's time as headmaster. On 13 December, 1951, the school choir gave a recital of carols to parents, managers and friends, while in March, 1960, a Cycling Proficiency course was run by Sergeant Wallington, of the local police force.

In 1956, Miss A. M. Michael-Evans became the school's first part-time clerical assistant (or secretary). Obviously the school was moving

into modern times, with forms to fill in, and paper work to see to!

Mrs Dougan retired at the end of the Summer Term, 1964, after 18 years of

"outstanding service" to the school. Just over a year later, Mr Dougan, like "Boss" Bartlett before him, was taken seriously ill, and on 19 November, 1966, Frank Blinkhorn, deputy head, became acting Head-Master. Mr Dougan died in February 1967, and on Valentine's day the teachers and 20 of the older children attended his funeral at St. Denys' Church. Mr Blinkhorn remained Acting Head until Christmas of that year.

Years of Growth

Harold Mills (Bob) took up his post as "head teacher" in January, 1968. Mr Haines joined him as deputy head in September, Mr Blinkhorn having left in April to teach at Ash Villa School at Rauceby Hospital. There were 328 children in the school then, but by 1970, the number had risen to 440, due to the lowering of the age at which children left the Infants' schools. Two new classrooms were built and the school was redecorated throughout. New estates of houses were built in the town, and numbers grew even higher, to 471 by July, 1974. The school became overcrowded, and this threw great strain on staff, children and teaching resources.

Despite these problems, much good work was done, especially in the teaching of music and games, in both of which the school built up a reputation for excellence. Several parties of older children visited Paris and other places on the near continent, as a way of broadening their education. More new classrooms were built, to take the growing number of children, including the Slow Learner Unit, opened in April, 1976, but the unfortunate result of this was that the school became very much a group of separate buildings. Every new classroom reduced the amount of playground, and the children still had to go outside to the toilets, even in the 1980's!

Mr Mills took early retirement on health grounds in 1983, and I, who had come as Deputy Headmaster in April, 1974, found myself in charge of the school for almost a year, during which time we had the excitement of having the main school building re-roofed, while the children and staff carried on their work in the rooms below! Peter Douglas's class won a National Energy Saving Competition, sponsored by British Gas, and our school made its first appearance on TV! We installed our first photocopier and some computers, wondering whether the expenditure on them was really justified. Little did we envisage what changes lay ahead of us!

Perhaps the most important thing we did at this time was to open the doors of the school to the local community, when we invited any parents, friends, former pupils and the people of the town to share the Empire Day Celebrations, which we held on 24 and 25 May 1984. This was a revival of a ceremony which had been first held in 1911, and continued until 1940. On both days, the Union Flag was flown at the front of the school, and programmes of music, Maypole Dancing and gymnastics were given in the hall. (In former times, these took place on the lawn at the front, where the car-park is now!) The school was open on both evenings, and much interest was shown in the displays of Art, Craft, Textiles, and historical materials

which I had found in the school, and others which were loaned by former pupils, particularly by my friend George Bennett, who had attended the school in the 1920's, walking from Boiling Wells near Rauceby every day!

Years of Change.

Ian Douglas became Headmaster in September, 1984; over the period of his headship, education has changed, and has continued to change, in all aspects, at national and local levels. When we look back, we can see the changes which have taken place at the Alvey over the years; yet, in the times of Boss Bartlett and Mary Walls Beavis, we feel a sense of security

and stability which elude us nowadays.

For many years, the various authorities had talked of building another junior school on the west side of the town, but nothing came of it. Lincolnshire County Council at last decided to do something about our overcrowded and antiquated buildings, and a major refurbishment and reconstruction of the school buildings was undertaken at a cost of £1,000,000. The work commenced on 31 March, 1988, and John McGregor, Secretary of State for Education, unveiled the plaque to mark the official re-opening of the buildings on 16 October, 1990. Langwith Builders, of Holbeach and the County Architects, worked hard to

give the school a building of which it could justifiably be proud. As in Mr Dougan's time, no school day was lost through the building works! The high quality of the building was reflected in the excellent work done by pupils and teachers, and in May, 1992, the school became a holder of the prestigious Schools Curriculum Award.

In the same year, on 1 April, as the result of a favourable parental ballot, the school became the first Junior school in Lincolnshire to go Grant Maintained, becoming known as the William Alvey Grant Maintained Junior School. Just over a year later, a few minutes before midnight on Wednesday, 16 June, 1993, fire broke out in the "new" classrooms at the rear of the school. A small fire had occurred in

one of the classrooms during the Christmas holidays 1966-67, but this fire was far more extensive and devastating, destroying not only the whole block of some 5 classrooms, but also children's work and the accumulated possessions of several teachers' careers. The cause was a faulty light-fitting. Fortunately, the refurbished part of the school escaped damage. In Ian Douglas' words, "a phoenix rose from the ashes," and Langwith Builders erected a fine block of replacement classrooms, which was opened, on 4 March, 1994, by the children's author, Michael Hardcastle.

The Alvey has always prided itself on being in the forefront of primary education; in June, 1995, our local

M.P., Rt. Hon. Douglas Hogg, opened our new computer suite in the "Ark," full of state-of-the-art information technology equipment. Now even the youngest child has access to the world of the Internet. It is a far cry from the slates used in the 1800's! No-one who knows Sleaford in these last years of the Twentieth Century can be unaware of how, once again, extensive house-building is going on around the town. This has meant an increase in the number of primary school children, the number on roll at the Alvey now being (October 1997) about 500! As in the 1970's, we are faced with over-large class sizes. To deal with this problem, a new 4-classroom block has been built on the top-playground. His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew,

The Duke of York, CVO, ADC unveiled a plaque at the official opening ceremony, on the afternoon of Monday, 3 November, 1997, in front of the whole school and a large number of invited guests. This was a great honour for the school, the first Royal Visitor in over two and a half centuries of history!

This new building, of course means the loss of playground space, a continuing feature in the Alvey's story, so a new hard-playing surface has been laid down in a corner of the school field. It is most fitting that all this work has been completed just before Mr Douglas retires. His successor will now take charge of the best junior school,

buildings, staff and children in Lincolnshire!

Odds and Ends.

1. The Alvey Boots.

You will remember how, way back in 1785, James Harryman left some money to pay for footwear for needy children. Shoes have always been an expensive part of a child's dress: my father told me how boys at his school in Grimsby went to school barefooted, even in the first decade of this present century. Sleaford was no exception to the rule, but this bequest to the Alvey school meant that every boy and girl who put in a full attendance for a year, morning and afternoon, and who was never late, was given,

usually in December, either the money or a ticket to buy boots or shoes at a local shop. Evidently our local branch of Stead and Simpsons was involved with this scheme, before the Second World War. Many of the poorer families relied on this money, so many children came to school in very bad weather and when they were quite poorly, so as not to miss out. In December, 1910, Mr Bartlett wrote, "The managers have decided to give 3 shillings and 6 pence, to each of 34 boys who have made full attendances, towards buying a pair of boots." At a time when weekly wages for a working man were around 20 shillings a week, this was obviously something a family couldn't do without.

2. The School House.

When our school was built, the master's house was, of course, a very important part of the building. It was a very pleasant place to live, right on the edge of town, looking across a fine lawn, to the road and Lollycocks Field. There was a living room, parlour, kitchen and pantry downstairs, and three bedrooms upstairs; for those days quite a commodious place. The Nightingarl and Bartlett families lived there, as did Miss Beavis, from 1935 to 1946. She had previously lived at 29 Eastgate, moving out to 63, Eastgate when she retired. Mr & Mrs Dougan lived there before moving into a new house in Ashfield Road in the 1950's. After that, the schoolhouse

went downhill, the front bedrooms were knocked into one to make a staffroom, and the parlour (or sitting room), became the school stock-room. It is very pleasing to see that with the refurbishment of the school, the rooms at the front of the house have been converted into tastefully decorated offices, while the front door of the Headmaster's house is the main entrance for all visitors to the school. The school-house is once again the Alvey's main architectural feature!

3. Signs of Days Gone By.

All around the school you can see evidence of the past. On the

coping stones of the front wall, under the bushes there are marks where children of Victorian times stood, sharpening their slate pencils, before the school bell rang at 9 o' clock in the morning.

Above the front door is an iron ring, which held the flag-pole, from which flew the Union flag on Empire Day and other days of national importance, as in May, 1937, when our present Queen's father, George V1, was crowned King.

On the ridge of the roofs on either side of the main school building, there are the metal ventilators once connected to fans, which were used as a rather inefficient way of bringing fresh air into the class-rooms below, in the days before we had windows which

opened very well, if at all. There are 3 on one side, and then a wider gap before the fourth: this shows where an extra classroom was built on each side.

The window which looks out from the staffroom on to the corridor has a stone-framework: when this room was the Infants' classroom, the window looked outside into the Girls' playground!

If you walk carefully round the classrooms on the east and west side of the "Ark," you will realise that in certain places the floor is somewhat uneven. Underneath the modern carpet are the original tiles on which the old coke stoves used to stand. It is interesting to know that the flue from the central-heating boiler goes up the

chimney from the old coke stove in the former Infants' classroom. Many years ago, the Infants' always had plum pudding and custard on the last day of the Christmas term, heated up on their class-room stove!

The iron fence which runs alongside the east side of the present playground is part of the original school fence. At one time, it had sharp spikes on the top, but they were removed many years ago, when a teacher slipped on the ice, and cut her hand badly on the spikes.

Today's hall is the hall which was built new in Mr Dougan's time. Until 1991, it had glass windows and doors on three sides, and in winter-time it always felt rather

chilly, especially for PE. Nowadays, it is right in the centre of the school, and suffers from being too warm and stuffy when we have whole-school assembly or a concert for parents.

4. In Memoriam.

After our Alvey commemoration Service, it has been our custom to place a posy of flowers on the grave of three girls who died, in recent years, while they were pupils at our school; Sally Wing, Elaine Corby and Samantha Read. Way back on 5 July, 1865, Miss Vickers wrote, "Betsy Ann Proctor kept from school by illness, and died three days later." On 8 February, 1945,

Miss Beavis wrote, "Yesterday, a scholar, died in Lincoln Hospital, his death being caused by a fall on his way home from school on December 18th." On 22 November, 1946, Mr Dougan wrote, "I much regret to record the death of Brian Fowler, aged 11 years, a pupil in this school, who was killed by falling masonry when on his way back to school from dinner today." The masonry mentioned was part of the door casing of one of the cottages along Eastgate, number 45. In the afternoon, Mr Dougan, and the Vicar, Canon Waudby, had the unenviable task of going up to Cranwell to break the news to John's parents.

5. A Special Day.

On Thursday, 4 May, 1989, the whole school went down to St. Denys' Church,

Alan Musson, George Street, a for 9.30am, to take part in an Ascension Day Service, which was led by Rev. John Thorold, the Vicar. We were back in school by morning playtime, and then carried on with the normal work of the day. This was the very welcome revival of a custom which had started on 24 May, 1900, which was also Queen Victoria's birthday! On that occasion, and for many years afterwards, in fact right up until 1967, the rest of the day was a holiday. The school now goes to church every Ascensiontide, so we keep up another piece of tradition. Unfortunately, we don't have a holiday now!

6. Miss Stanyon

Evelyn Stanyon started her life at the Alvey School, when she entered the Infants' class on 23 April, 1906, at the age

of 6. Her family lived at the Railway Gatehouse, on East Road. She became a monitress in the Girls' School when she was 13, on 1 December, 1913, being given the princely salary of £5 per annum. She was evidently a natural-born teacher, for she taught in the Infants' department for several months in 1914, deputising for the headmistress in her absence. A few years later, she went off to Sleaford High School for Girls, to prepare for the Senior Candidates Examination for Pupil Teachers, in which she was successful, returning to the Alvey Girls' School, and to Miss Beavis, as a pupil-teacher before the end of the First World War. Through the 1920's she taught mainly in the Infants' and lower Junior part of the school. We have a copy of a photograph of her, looking very smart and attractive, with her class of some 22 boys and girls, sitting in their old-fashioned wood and iron

double-desks. Evelyn stayed on to teach at the Alvey Junior Mixed School. As an uncertificated teacher, that is, one who had not attended a Teacher Training College, she remained as a teacher of the younger children, having charge of Class 1A for many years, until Mr Dougan moved her to class 2A in January, 1952, where she remained until she retired at the end of the Summer Term, 1961. "At an assembly of the whole school, she was presented with an easy chair and our best wishes go with her for a long and happy retirement." Dr Golby, the Director of Education, called to say "Goodbye." It is hard nowadays to imagine how a person could spend over 50 years, from her childhood, in the same school, as pupil and teacher, teaching in the same class for so many years, yet there were many teachers, especially maiden ladies, who did just that. They were devoted to their

professions, and here I wish to pay my respect to them. They could say, in the words of the writer of the Book of Proverbs, "My child, do not forget my teaching. I have educated you in the ways of wisdom, I have guided you along the path of honesty and truth."

7. Punishment Books.

In the bad old days of the cane, the headteachers were supposed to record the punishments meted out to offenders! In 1914 we read the following:-

May 8th	4 strokes for trespassing in a garden on leaving school.
May 15	A good thrashing, for telling an untruth.
Sept. 11	4 stripes, for writing a note containing bad language to another boy in class.

Oct. 2	4 stripes, for indecency in the playground.
--------	---

Nov. 9	1 boy, 4 stripes, 3 boys 2 stripes, for fighting in the street.
--------	---

Boss Bartlett was not to be trifled with!
Nor was Mr Dougan:-

1953:

29 Oct.	1 stroke on right hand, for being a nuisance in class: was warned 3 days ago by the headmaster for similar behaviour.
---------	---

2 Dec.	1 stroke on each hand, for bad case of bullying a girl at the bus-stop.
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8. Alvey Humour.

"Keep laughing" was a phrase often quoted among the Alvey Staff a number of years ago! Children and teachers have always been good at that! There was a time when the Deputy Headmaster and Anne Raynor, our much appreciated school secretary for over 25 years now, sang "There's a hole in my bucket," to the delight of the whole school, and when staff and pupils dressed up in red noses, funny socks and clothes for Comic Relief Day. Above all, remembered by few of us now, but never to be forgotten, there

was the occasion when on the last day of the Christmas Term, 1981, some of the teachers acted out "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." John Clark, head of the Slow Learner Unit, minus his false teeth,

was the Wicked Stepmother, and Steve Egerton played Snow White. He wore white tights, and a frilly dress, which split at a crucial moment, to reveal his underpants. We nearly needed a new roof on the hall after that!

9. "Islands of Beauty."

In 1984, the School Choir decided to sing the song "Islands of Beauty" at the Grantham Music Festival. We required an extra copy of music, so we wrote to C. John Taylor, the composer, who lives near Oban, in Scotland. He sent us the copy, and asked, that in return, we record the song for him, which we did. Imagine our great surprise when we found the Alvey School Choir featuring alongside several Scottish artistes on a new cassette of C. John Taylor's music and poetry! These cassettes were widely sold in souvenir

shops in the Scottish Highlands. We know for certain that one found its way to New Zealand! In September this year, when I was on holiday in Oban, I discovered that the Alvey Choir is still featured on C. John Taylor's latest cassette. Their singing goes on, still, after all these years!

Some years after, Lynn Brewster's orchestra, John Such's Folk Group, Caroline Munk's Recorder Group and the school choir made their own cassette "The Alvey Sound." Since then, in our refurbished hall we have had a number of excellent music and drama productions, such as "Bring on the Builders" and "Good Heavens Above." These have been preserved for posterity by video-tape, so in years to come grandmas and grandads will be able to show their grandchildren what the Alvey was really like, years ago!

10. Belvoir Castle, and Beyond.

In 1983, one class from our school had the unique chance to be the first visitors to Belvoir Castle, under a new education scheme organised by the Duke of Rutland. This was a great success, and groups of children regularly visited the castle over the next 5 years. One glorious Summer's day in June, 1988, we dressed up in Victorian clothes and joined over 1000 other children to take part in a Victorian Day at the castle, complete with marching bands, Punch and Judy and other side-shows. We shall never forget the elegance of Mrs Ganney and Mrs Whyte! The relationships we built up with the staff at the castle were very rewarding, so much so that in the following November a group of our children were filmed at the castle, for the B.B.C. TV. Children's show "Box

Pops.”

The Alvey children have always been noted for their good behaviour, particularly when on out-of-school visits. It is because of this that over the last number of years, teachers have taken parties of children on extended residential visits to Northumberland, Ambleside, Grasmere and Aberdovey. On such occasions, the children have worn their Alvey sweatshirts with pride!

11. Alvey Day

A copy of the “Sleaford Gazette,” which I have recently read, for Friday 24 August, 1945, has as its headline, “Service in memory of the Alvey School Founder.” In the article which follows, we read how the then Vicar, Canon C.F. Waudby, had preached a sermon and said prayers for the school, its teachers and children, on the previous Tuesday 21 August, maintaining the tradition which had lasted over 200 years. Mr Dougan made the service a part of school life, when on 16 July 1953, before the end of the Summer Term, the whole school attended the AlveyDay Service. They were joined by over 200 parents and old scholars.

Within a few years, the church was always full for the service, as it is now, and the children and staff spent much time decorating the whole church with flowers!

MEMBERS OF STAFF OVER THE YEARS

1. Alvey Girls' School, January, 1894.

M.A. Nightingarl	Head Mistress
Elizabeth Ogden	Certificated Assistant
M.S. Waters	Assistant Mistress
Edith M. Nightingarl	2nd Year Pupil Teacher
Winnifred Porter	2nd Year Pupil Teacher
Edith Willson	Monitor on Probation

This was the first time the teachers were called "The Staff"!

2. Alvey Girls' School, December, 1905.

Edith M. Nightingarl	Head Mistress
Edith Willson	Certificated Assistant
Winnifred Porter	Assistant, Article 50
Lily Hoyes	2nd Year Pupil Teacher
Kate E. Brooks	1st Year Pupil Teacher

3. Alvey Boys' School, September, 1905

John Nightingarl	Head Master
Albert Waters	Assistant, Article 50
David Evans	Assistant, Article 50
Walter Brockett	2nd Year Pupil Teacher

4. Alvey Boys' School, September, 1933

George Colborne Bartlett	Trained, Certificated Head Teacher
Maud Wood	Certificated Assistant
Albert Waters	Uncertificated Assistant
Ernest Pearson	Uncertificated Assistant

5. Alvey Girls' School, circa 1930

Mary W. Beavis	Certificated Head Teacher
Edith Willson	Certificated Assistant
Evelyn Stanyon	Uncertificated Assistant
Nancy Page	Uncertificated Assistant

6. Alvey Junior Mixed School, January, 1935

Mary Walls Beavis	Headteacher
Miss M. Wood	Certificated Assistant
Miss E. Willson	Certificated Assistan
Mrs Easter	Uncertificated Assistant
Miss K. Modd	Uncertificated Assistant
Miss E. Stanyon	Uncertificated Assistant
Mr E. Pearson	
Mr A. Waters	“ “
	” ”

**7. Alvey Junior School,
September, 1947**

Samuel Eric Dougan
Headmaster
Mr E. Pearson
3B
Mrs G. Dougan
3A
Miss M. Wood
2A
Miss E.M.V. Buck
2B
Miss E. Stanyon
1A

Miss U. Newton
1B
Mr M. Waite
Remove Class
Mr J.W. Ward
Caretaker (died, in
school, 26 January,
1948).

**8. Alvey Junior School,
September, 1956**

Samuel Eric Dougan
Headmaster
Mrs G. Dougan
Year 3

Mr F.S. Blinkhorn
Deputy Headmaster

"

Mr D.A. Woods

"

Miss J. Staveley

"

Miss E. Stanyon

Year 2

Miss A.M. Parrotte

"

Mrs R. Trafford

"

Miss M.E. Northern

Year 1

Miss J.R. Onyon

"

Miss A.M. Michael-Evans
Clerical Assistant

Mr Burn
Caretaker

**9. Alvey Junior School,
January, 1969**

H.A. Mills
Headmaster

Mr R. Haines
Deputy Headmaster

Mrs P. Carroll

Mr C. Peters

Mrs M. Trueman

Mr A. Beasley
Mrs M. Mills
Mrs J. Porter
Mrs R. Chamberlain

Miss M. Shepherd

Mrs R. Bland
Secretary

Mr R. Hazeldine
Caretaker

H.A. Mills
Headmaster
Fourth Year
Mrs P.O.M. Carroll

"

Mr S. Egerton

"

P.T. Thornton
Deputy Headmaster
Third Year
Mrs M. Mills

"

Mr P. Douglas

"

**10. Alvey Primary School,
September, 1976**

	Mrs J. Porter		Mrs S. Parker	
	Second Year		a.m. Games p.m.	Remedial
	Mrs M. Bonner		Mrs M. Douglas	
"			a.m. Music p.m.	Remedial
	Mrs T. Kirk		Mr J. Kitchen	
"			a.m. H.A. Mills'	Remedial
	Mrs V. Filsell		class p.m.	
"			E.S.N. Unit	
	Mrs S. Archer	First	Mrs M. Booth (Teacher in charge)	
Year	Mrs L. Walker		Mrs A. Lyons Mr K. Chantry Mrs J. Tidwell (Ancillary)	
"				
	Miss P. Southern		Mrs A. Raynor	
"			Secretary	

Mr R. Hazeldine
Caretaker

11. Alvey School, January, 1984

Mr P.T. Thornton
Acting Headmaster
Mr R. Richardson
Second Master (on

secondment to Local

Authority)
Mrs Norman
Fourth Year
Mrs P. Carroll
"

Mr P. Douglas
"

Mrs Cardwell
Third Year
Miss A. Bass
"

Mrs M. Mills
"

Mrs J. Ganney
"

Mrs V. Porter
Second Year
Mr S. Egerton
"

Mrs S. Whyte
"

Mrs S. Parker
First Year
Mrs K. Day
"

Mrs M. Bonnor
"

Slow Learner Unit

Mr J. Clarke
Acting Deputy Headmaster

Mr K. Chantry
Mrs J. Marriott
Mrs I Patchett
Mrs J. Tidwell
Ancillary Assistant

Mrs L. Mastin
(on maternity leave)

Mrs C. McFarlane
Ancillary Assistant, Main

School

Mrs A. Raynor
Secretary
Mr M.R. Deleuse
Caretaker

**12. William Alvey G.M. School,
September, 1992**

Mr I. R. Douglas
Headteacher

Mrs L. Brewster
Year 6
Mrs L. Browning
"

Mr T. Culpin
"

Miss C. Tanner
"

Mr G. Chandler
Year 5

Mrs E. Davies
"

Mrs S. Kennedy
"

Mr P. Thornton
" Deputy

Headteacher

Mrs D. Freeman
Year 4

Mrs S. Killeen
Year 4
Mrs S. Ezart-Hunt
"
Mrs K. Robinson
"

Mrs J. Ganney
Year 3
Mrs S. Hobbs
"
Mrs J. Lea
"
Mrs S. Smith
"

Mrs J. Marriott
Special Needs
Mrs P. Clarke
"
Mrs L. Swaby
"

Mrs. P. Borrill
"

Mrs A. Raynor
Secretary
Mr M.R. Deleuse
Caretaker

**13. William Alvey G.M. School,
January, 1998**

Mr I.R. Douglas
Headteacher

Mr G. Chandler
Year 6
Mrs E. Davies
"

Mrs L. Swaby
"

Miss H. Duckett

"

Mr D. Pepper

"

Mrs S. Ezart-Hunt

Year 5

Mr D. Leafe

"

Mrs P. Sealey

"

Mrs L. Setterfield

" (Temporary)

Mrs J. Thorold

" (Temporary)

Mrs J. Marriott

Year 4

Miss V. Bevan

"

Mrs P. Borrill

" (Temporary for Mrs

Robinson)

Mrs D. McClelland-Jones

" (Temporary for Mrs

Killeen)

Mrs J. Ganney

Year 3

Mrs L Brewster

"

Deputy

Headteacher

Mrs S. Kennedy

"

Mrs J. Lander

"

Learning Support

Mrs J. Fahey

Mrs J. Lea
(Part-time)
Mrs J. Elliott
(Part-time)
Mrs S. Clements
Classroom Assistant
Mrs J. Hogg
Ancillary Assistant

Mrs L. Browning
Maternity Leave
Mrs S. Killeen
Maternity Leave
Mrs K. Robinson
Maternity Leave
Mrs S. Culpin
(Part-time)

Mrs A. Raynor
Secretary
Mr A.L.S. Marrow
Bursar

Mrs A. Bryan
Clerical Assistant
Mr A. Francis
Site Manager

**14. William Alvey G.M. School,
September, 1998**

Mr P.R. Jackson
Headteacher

Mrs E. Davies
Year 6
Miss H. Duckett
“

Mr D. Pepper
“

Mrs K. Robinson
“

Mr J. Coward
“

Mrs L. Browning
Year 5 (Part-time)
Mrs S. Culpin
“ (Part-time)

Miss V. Bevan
“

Mrs P. Sealey
“

Mrs S. Killeen
“

Miss R. Clarke
“

Mrs L. Brewster
Year 4 Deputy

Headteacher

Mrs F. Fleming
“ (Part-time)

Mrs S. Ezart-Hunt
“

Mrs L. Swaby
“

Miss J. Kidston
“

Mrs J. Ganney
Year 3

Mrs J. Lander
“

Mrs S. Kennedy
“

Mrs J. Lea
“ (Part-time)

Mrs P. Borrill
“ (Part-time)

Miss L. Devlin
“

Learning Support

Mrs J. Fahey
Mrs J. Marriott

Mrs S. Clements
Classroom Assistant
Mrs J. Hogg
Ancillary Assistant
Mrs J. Fenton
Ancillary Assistant
Mrs A. Raynor
Secretary (Absent)
Mr A.L.S. Marrow
Bursar
Mrs A. Bryan
Acting Secretary
Mrs A. Farrow
Clerical Assistant
Mr A. Francis
Site Manager

revive memories, happy or otherwise
for our readers!

It is interesting to see how the school
staff has grown in size over the years.
I hope that seeing these names will

us read the words which Ian Douglas wrote at the end of the last School Log Book, a Log Book originally started by Mary Walls Beavis in January, 1935. Ian wrote, on 20 December, 1985, "This book has spanned fifty years in the life of the William

Final Word.

I close this brief history of our school with words from our current School Brochure: "Old and new mixes readily in the life of the Alvey School. We look to the past with pride, and to the future with confidence."

As we stand on the threshold of a new era in our school's life, with the appointment of a new headteacher, let

Alvey School. There have been many changes here and in the world at large. I wonder what the next fifty years will bring?" The words of our unofficial Alvey motto are, "It has all been changed!" Let us hope and pray that those who have responsibility for the education of the children of Sleaford in the years to come will remain faithful to William Alvey's Christian vision and foresight.

FOREWORD

Peter Thornton has had a long association with the William Alvey School and was the much respected deputy-headteacher when I came to Sleaford in 1984. He has always been interested in the history of the school and was collecting information even then. If ever anyone needed to know something about school-life in the past Peter could always be relied on to provide the information. I still have the typed sheet about William Alvey which he gave me in readiness for my first commemorative service in 1985.

Our school has an interesting past but, as far as I am aware, this is the first time anyone has attempted to chronicle its history. I feel certain that many ex-pupils will derive great pleasure from reading Peter's work. For some it will bring back happy memories of life in a very different time, others no doubt will remember the punishment book and the legendary strawberry teas for those who won a scholarship to one of the grammar schools.

Being headteacher at the William Alvey School has given me a great deal of pleasure. It has been a privilege to lead the school through a period of great change and an honour to work with such fine colleagues as Peter Thornton. I

am pleased to endorse this small volume, which is an important addition to those already documenting the history of Sleaford.

Ian Douglas (Headmaster, 1984 – 1998).
HEADTEACHER'S COMMENT

On taking up the post of Headteacher at the William Alvey School I was struck immediately by the blend of the old and the new. The solidity of the heavy stone walls interlaced with the graceful latticed windows provides a sense of history coupled with a reassurance of security and solidity.

Once inside however, the contrast could not be more marked. The school teems with modern technology and resources that others might only dream about.

Nevertheless, a building is after all only a location for people to interact and what matters most in any school is the care and dedication provided by those who are privileged to work with young children.

The William Alvey School is very fortunate to have its history chronicled so finely. Peter Thornton's book is intriguing and paints a clear and compulsive picture of how the school has developed to date. I commend this book to you and can only hope that Peter will consider adding a further chapter to chart the future as the school continues to grow from strength to strength.

Peter Jackson

**THE WILLIAM ALVEY SCHOOL
SLEAFORD
1729 – 1998**

Written by
Peter T. Thornton, BA

Illustrated by Jane Lea

Published by the William Alvey School

Cost £2.50

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1729 – 1998**

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Appendix 1

2002 Quarrington school closes. William Alvey becomes a primary school (juniors and infants).

2004 Tom Moss died (Year 1) due to turn 6-brain cancer

2005 Appointment of specialist music and dance teacher

- Astro turf
- Tom's Garden
- Maddie

2006 Ofsted outstanding

2007 Maddie Bignell October 2007 (brain stem tumour) 10 years old

2011 Academy status

2013 Retirement of Mr Peter Jackson and appt Mr Stephen Tapley

2014 Community heating (legacy of Mr Jackson)

- Change of uniform
- Flag pole to replace Victorian pole

2015 New hall

- Pastoral manager

2016 'Project 72' and 'When in Sleaford'

- Fourth 'bulge' class in Reception
- New classroom and HT's office

2017

- School full- 660
- Twitter/website

- Repairs to the front of the school
- Death of Mr Mills
- Continue to strive for excellence
- New soft-play area and outside gym

2018

- Revamp of Tom and Maddy's Garden
- Renovation of front of school (including inscription and finials)
- Remodelling of front offices