

School Days in Martham



£2.50

This booklet has been researched and prepared by members of Martham Local History Group – Chris Harrison, Nicola Hems and Ann Meakin and written by Ann Meakin. We are very grateful for the help given by the staff of the Norfolk Record Office at the Norfolk Archive Centre in Norwich where the records of Martham School have been deposited for safe keeping. As we were only allowed to look at documents over 50 years old, however, we found invaluable the notes made by Julie Beales for the last 50 years when the documents were still held in Martham.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, it cannot be guaranteed. There is a great deal more that we would have liked to include but space did not permit.

Published in August 2009 by Martham Local History Group and printed at Martham Parish Church.

All the proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be donated to Martham Church Hall Renovation Fund.

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SCHOOLDAYS IN MARTHAM

THE VERY EARLY DAYS

Many people realise that there was schooling in Martham before the opening of the 'Board School' in 1873 but how long before?

Amazingly, the first evidence of a school in Martham is in 1323 when it was recorded in the archives of Norwich Cathedral that the Vicar of Martham, Roger de K[erdiston?] was granted a license to teach grammar to 20 boys, giving birth to the first Grammar School in Martham. This would have been Latin grammar.

In those days, because the monastery at Norwich Cathedral held the right to appoint the parish priest of Martham, care was taken to appoint a scholarly man who was capable of teaching Latin grammar. Why was this so important? Wherever possible, it was necessary to educate boys to be the next generation of priests and also to study for other professions at universities so such a teacher would have facilitated this.

Where would this school have been held? In those days, a building designated exclusively as a school was a rarity so the boys would most likely have been taught in the church, which at that time was the old round-towered church that existed before the present church was built in the 1400s. In this newer church, the schoolroom may have been in a room in the tower which later became the ringing chamber. At that time paper was unknown in England and parchment was very expensive and therefore used only by experienced scribes so for their first attempts at writing the boys would probably have been given a stick with which to make outlines of letters in sand on a tray.

It is noteworthy that prior to the Reformation the Martham Grammar School had a reputation for excellence which rivalled the grammar schools at Norwich Cathedral Priory and Coxford Priory in West Norfolk. Not all the records of Norwich Cathedral have survived but those that do reveal that Martham Grammar School still existed in the late 1600s when the Reverend Benjamin Lawrence was appointed the schoolmaster in 1676. He was also the Vicar of Martham.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS FOR A FREE SCHOOL

Following a bequest in 1622 on the death of Christopher Amys, who lived in the adjoining parish of Rollesby, a free charity school was eventually established in Martham. In his will Christopher Amys stipulated that £100 should be paid into the hand of the minister and churchwardens of the town of Martham within one year of his decease, *'to be bestowed by them upon a house and some land to remain a school house for ever.'*

This sum was augmented by the bequests of three other local men. Another £100 pounds was bequeathed by Robert Bower of Martham, who died in 1683. Robert Amys of Repps bequeathed £10 and Robert Rust of Martham bequeathed 20 shillings. For various reasons it may not have been possible to buy a suitable schoolhouse or land immediately and therefore the opening of the school was delayed. A suitable site was eventually found and although it is unclear whether a new or existing building was used, the house that became the schoolmaster's



The Old School House – Martham (home of the schoolmaster from 1683)

house still stands in a corner of Martham Green. It was much extended in the 20th century but the original part is still recognisable. Beyond it is a range of buildings which include the present carpet shop and one of these was the schoolroom.

Timothy Sowles was appointed in 1683 to be the first schoolmaster of the free charity school founded in the form stipulated by Christopher Amys in his will. Therefore it is probable that Martham Grammar School closed and that the teaching of Latin at Martham was discontinued as alternative opportunities were available in the locality at North Walsham. By the end of the seventeenth century, Sir William Paston's Grammar School at North Walsham was firmly established with the intention that children from a wide area of east Norfolk would be offered places there. From time to time a reminder of this was sent to the overseers in those parishes where children were eligible to apply. The Martham Overseers Account Book has an entry in 1767 which reads:

"Whereas Sir William Paston of his school appointed 40 scholars to be freely taught in the rules of Grammar and in the knowledge of the Latin tongue of such of the inhabitants children as shall be resident and dwelling in the hundreds of..... East and West Flegg. The Governors will meet on Tuesday 28th April 1767 at four o'clock to receive the petitions from such children as desire and appear to them duly qualified to be admitted to the said school."

Unfortunately none of the Paston school records survive that show the names of scholars from this period so we have no record of whether any Martham children were accepted.

For many centuries only people licensed by the church authorities were permitted to be teachers and of these, only university graduates were appointed to teach in a grammar school. However to teach in a free school you had to be held in very high esteem by the influential local inhabitants who were often the trustees of the charitable foundation that ran the school. The surviving Norwich Diocesan Records show the names of all those men appointed to be schoolmasters in Martham between 1675 and 1785. They were as follows:

<u>Date of appointment</u>	<u>Name of the appointee</u>	<u>Type of school</u>
22/2/1676	Benjamin Lawrence [also the Vicar of Martham]	Grammar School
22/1/1683	Timothy Sowles	Free School
16/1/1710	William Creasey	Reading, writing & arithmetic
6/8/1739	William Mackay (also a priest)	Free School
14/10/1740	Nicholas Randell	Reading, writing & arithmetic in Free School
1/1/1785	Henry Payne	Free School

One of these schoolmasters, William Creasey, was born in Martham in 1669 so it seems likely that he attended the grammar school when he was a boy. He was the son and grandson of a family who worked as tailors and who obviously valued education.

Those who attended the free school at Martham were all taught to read but if parents wished their children to learn writing and arithmetic, fees had to be paid.

A study of the Marriage Register for the period 1780 to 1795 provides interesting information regarding the extent of literacy in Martham. In that period there were 68 marriages and the register reveals that:

- Of the grooms, 26 signed and 42 put a cross showing that over $\frac{1}{3}$ could at least sign their names.
- Of the brides, 22 signed and 46 put a cross, i.e. nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ could sign their names.
- Nine of the brides signed whereas their groom put a cross.
- Only 15 out of these 136 married were people from outside the parish.

Does this indicate that people may not have been as illiterate as might have been thought?

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND FURTHER BEQUESTS

In the early nineteenth century further bequests were made for education in Martham, with some notable bequests from female donors. In 1816 Sarah Bowman died. Her husband, Thomas Bowman, had been the Vicar of Martham in the late eighteenth century. In her will she left £300 to be invested and the interest was to be used to pay for the education of six poor children of the parish whose parents could not pay for their education.

Diana Creasey, the great niece of the schoolmaster William Creasey, died in 1835. Although she lived in London she had grown up in Martham and, having retained a great affection for her native village, was brought back to Martham to be buried. In her will she left £400. This sum was to be invested and the interest used to pay for clothing and education for six poor **girls**. A large black-painted board giving details of this bequest is kept in Martham Parish Church.

Interestingly, Martham was included in a report of all the charities in England, produced by the Charity Commissioners from 1815 to 1835. The part of the report relating to Martham revealed that in the later years of this period the schoolmaster had a house and a garden and the rent from the land gave him a salary of £8 per year. However, prior to 1825 it had been £15 per year but this was reduced

because so much money had had to be spent on school house repairs that the charity was on the verge of bankruptcy. This was a phenomenal reduction in salary. The schoolmaster at the time was Richard Forder. Was he a very dedicated teacher to consider staying in the post or did he have other sources of income?

This Charities Report stated that 18 children were instructed in reading. Were boys **and girls** included? No records give this information. As mentioned above, if children wished to learn writing and arithmetic their parents had to pay extra. Scholars were selected by whoever the trustees of the various charities were at the time. The report also noted that the trustees of the Sarah Bowman Charity say that £6 is paid yearly to a school mistress for teaching girls reading and sewing. (Was this Mrs. Forder?) The same people did not necessarily serve as trustees for all these charities and one wonders whether there were differences of opinion between them. Records have not been found to say whether Richard Forder continued to be the schoolmaster until he died in 1846 or exactly when the next schoolmaster was appointed. Richard Forder was succeeded by John Lee Hunt, who, when he took over the school, was also the Postmaster of Martham so he clearly had an income in addition to his schoolmaster's salary.



The Vicar's School – before the roads were made up

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL that became known as the VICAR'S SCHOOL

Following the founding of the National Schools Society under the auspices of the Church of England and a branch of the society being established in Norwich in 1812, numerous schools were founded by the church in the Diocese of Norwich. From correspondence found at the Norfolk Record Office, it is evident that the diocesan authorities requested the Reverend George Pearse, who became Vicar of Martham in 1835, to establish a National school in Martham. He circulated a subscription list among the better-off inhabitants of the parish and raised £27 but this was far short of the £95 that was needed. The Norwich diocesan authorities were so concerned that this school be built that they contributed the rest of the

money and as a result a schoolroom was built in 1852 in a corner of Martham churchyard. No records of this school appear to have survived although the Trade Directories of the time provide useful information about the schoolmasters and mistresses.

TRADE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

<i>Directory & Date</i>	<i>Schoolmaster/mistress</i>	<i>School details</i>
<i>White 1836</i>	<i>Richard Forder</i>	<i>Free school</i>
<i>White 1845</i>	<i>Richard Forder</i>	<i>Free school</i>
<i>Kelly 1846</i>	<i>Benjamin Greenacre John Lee Hunt (also Post Master)</i>	<i>Boys day school Girls day school</i>
<i>Kelly 1853</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Forder John Lee Hunt (& PO)</i>	<i>Young ladies day school Boys day school</i>
<i>Kelly 1858</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Forder John Lee Hunt (& PO)</i>	<i>Seminary Boys day school</i>
<i>Post Office 1858</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Forder John Lee Hunt (& PO)</i>	<i>Seminary Boys day school</i>
<i>White 1864</i>	<i>John Lee Hunt (& PO) Miss Ellen Ferrier Ann Varley</i>	<i>Master free school Boarding school National school</i>
<i>Kelly 1865</i>	<i>Miss Amelia Jane Soame Mrs Jean Hunt John Lee Hunt (& PO)</i>	<i>National school Ladies seminary Boys day school</i>
<i>Harrod & Co. 1868</i>	<i>John Lee Hunt (& PO) Miss C Purdy</i>	<i>Commercial school Educational establishment</i>
<i>Kelly 1875</i>	<i>George Wilton John Lee Hunt (& PO)</i>	<i>Board school mixed Endowed mixed</i>
<i>Kelly 1879</i>	<i>Alfred Roskilly John Lee Hunt (& PO) Miss Ellen Rust</i>	<i>Board school mixed Endowed mixed Ladies school</i>
<i>Kelly 1883</i>	<i>Alfred Roskilly Miss Ellen Rust</i>	<i>Board school mixed Ladies school</i>
<i>Kelly 1888</i>	<i>Robert Worthington Miss Clara Plaskett Miss Ellen Rust</i>	<i>Board school Board school infants School (private?)</i>
<i>Kelly 1892</i>	<i>William Roland Hulme Miss Marianne Short Miss Ellen Rust</i>	<i>Board school mixed. Board school infants mixed School (private?)</i>
<i>Kelly 1896</i>	<i>William Roland Hulme Mrs. Hulme</i>	<i>Board School mixed Infants mixed</i>
<i>Kelly 1900</i>	<i>William Roland Hulme Mrs Hulme</i>	<i>Board School mixed Infants Mistress</i>

The National Censuses of the nineteenth century show how steadily the population of Martham grew during this period. It is not known how many children of school age there were but a great many were listed as 'scholars'. The Vicar's school and the Free school must have been very overcrowded if all the 'scholars' actually attended school.

The Population of Martham from the National Census Returns

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1831	895
1841	1032
1851	1129
1861	1092
1871	1191
1881	1097
1891	1177

THE FOUNDATION OF THE BOARD SCHOOL

In 1870 Forster's Education Act of 1870 made provision for government funded elementary schools to be established wherever there was either no school or the existing schools were inadequate. These were known as 'Board Schools' because they were managed by a local board of managers. Martham was deemed an eminently suitable place to qualify for an elementary school as the existing Free School and Vicar's School were totally inadequate for the number of children in the village. A school board was therefore established in Martham followed by the opening of a Board School in 1873. It was built on the Glebe land owned by the church, to the northeast of the churchyard and near to the National School.

The members of the school board managed the financial affairs of the school. Whenever expenditure was required they had to apply for a government grant to pay for whatever was needed and the money would then be paid. A log book recording events at the school was kept by every head teacher. Government inspectors regularly visited the school and made their reports and comments, all of which are mentioned in the log books.

From the inspectors' comments in 1876 it is evident that the school was not a happy one. They criticised the absence of any form of heating, the shortage of books and the overcrowding. At that time the National School building (The Vicar's school) was still being used for the infants and the Free School was still in existence. One of the early assistant teachers left to go the Free School as did several of the children. It was sad and most surprising to discover that the Board School seemed to have a somewhat unsatisfactory start to its history.

The first log book shows that the school opened on 31st March 1873 with 19 children attending, although by June the number had increased to 45. The head teacher was Miss Ellen Rust. She was born in Martham and baptised on 28th July 1853. Her stay at the school lasted for only two years, after which it seems that she set up her own private school. During Miss Rust's time attendance figures continued to increase and there was one assistant teacher Miss Clara Alcock. It has not been possible to discover whether Ellen Rust was related to the Sam Rust who had bequeathed money to the Free School but there had been people with the surname Rust in Martham since the early seventeenth century.

The second head teacher, George Wilton, stayed for four years before he retired to Winterton. He was followed by Alfred Roskilly in 1879, by Mr Worthington in 1884, and by Mr Hulme in 1888.

The Board School education was not free and in the early years there was a weekly fee of two pence. Fees were collected weekly or whenever parents could afford to pay them but action was taken over non-payment. In the 1880s, mention was made in the log book if children attended without payment of fees and it was

also noted that some children had their fees paid by the Vicar or from the Educational Charity. Gradually things became stricter and in February 1886, parents were given notice that fees had to be paid in advance. In December 1890, the log book states that although the head teacher was not responsible for the collection of fees, he could send a child home if payments were two weeks in arrears. In 1891, the head teacher was made responsible by the Board for the collection of fees and he started to send children home for non-payment of fees. He must have been glad when education became free from 1st October 1891 and he was relieved of this unpleasant task. Reading through the log books one can sense the constant friction between the school authorities and those parents who could ill afford to pay fees and did not see that being at school was any benefit to the children when they might be earning a few coppers each week to contribute to the family's income.

THE CLOSING OF THE FREE SCHOOL

In the 1870s there must have been great rivalry between the Board School and the Free School. It cannot have been a satisfactory situation. The last recorded teacher at the Free School was John Lee Hunt, who must have been teaching until he died aged 68 in May 1880. He was buried on 7th May. It is revealing to then note that the Board School log book records 40 children joining the Board School on 20th May 1880. Education had become compulsory four years earlier in 1876 so it seems that the Board School had no choice but to accept the pupils from the Free School. How did they cope with this sudden influx?

MARTHAM EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

After the death of John Lee Hunt the Charity Commissioners were instrumental in consolidating the three charities of Christopher Amys, Sarah Bowman and Diana Creasey into "The Martham Educational Charity". Eight people were to be the trustees including the vicar of Martham, the Reverend George Merriman, who was to be the chairman. One of the first things they decided was that the children who had been receiving support from the Christopher Amys Charity at the Free School should continue to receive money until 6th April 1883 thus enabling them to pay their fees of two pennies a week at the Board School.

How much money was by that time in the Christopher Amys Charity is not stated and was difficult to assess as the charity owned land and property that was rented out to provide income. However, the Diana Creasey Charity had £29.17s.2d and the Sarah Bowman Charity had £16.16s.1d. In February 1883 it was decided that £3.10s.0d from the Diana Creasey Charity should be spent on clothing for poor girls.

The extreme poverty of many families in Martham in the 1880s and 1890s is revealed in the first minute book of the Martham Educational Charity, which covered the years 1883 to 1897. By December 1883 it was recorded that there were 51 children on the charity register and that each child should be supplied with a pair of boots to be made by the bootmakers in the village. On a brighter note, William Hodds was rewarded with 2s.6d (two shillings and sixpence) for his good conduct!

Attendance at school was considered vital and at least 400 attendances a year, equal to 200 full days of schooling, were the minimum requirement, for a child to 'pass'. If children did not achieve this, their money from the charity could be

withdrawn but it seems the trustees viewed this as a last resort and sent warnings to the parents about low attendance. Children who had made over 400 attendances would be eligible for a bonus of 5s.0d (five shillings). The parents of ten children were requested to apply for one of these. There were some bright children about. George Gallant 'passed' even though he made only 182 attendances.

In November 1885 the number of children needing free boots had increased to 60, with each bootmaker in the village being asked to produce 15 pairs.

By 1886 this number had increased to 73 and therefore the amount of the bonuses for good attendance had to be reduced to only 2s.6d (two shillings and six pence).

In 1888, the children who were claiming charity money but failed to pass the examination due to absenteeism were no longer eligible for help. What had happened to the donations given to their parents for their schooling? It was clear that the Charity Trustees needed to become stricter. By 1889 they had decided that the fees for the children of paupers should be paid straight to the 'Guardians of the Poor' - the locally elected board in charge of poor relief – who would pay the school fees direct to the school.

As in 1891 the fees for elementary education were abolished, in 1892 the Trustees looked at the payments situation again. This time they decided to revise the bonus system to give 'Drapery tickets' to be spent in the shops in the village. These would be given as follows for all children who qualified:

- Over 400 attendances – 4s.0d
- Over 410 attendances – 5s.0d
- Over 420 attendances – 6s.0d
- Over 430 attendances – 7s.0d

Boots continued to be given but the numbers issued each year are not stated. As many former scholars still alive today know, the payment for boots and later of shoes continued until the 1950s.

THE BOARD SCHOOL 1873 TO 1901

During these years the members of the School Board had total control of everything, even the teacher's pay.

Surprisingly, the school year did not coincide with the beginning of school terms, which kept in step with the Christmas, Easter and flexible harvest holidays. Instead, children moved up a class at the beginning of April, or at the beginning of October, which in the 1880s was the beginning of the school year

School holidays could vary slightly, especially the summer one, which in the early days started in mid-August whenever the harvest was ready and lasted until mid-September so that children could help with the harvest and fruit picking and later gleaning. The Easter and Christmas holidays were usually a fortnight each but at first there were no half-term holidays. There were, however, numerous days off for elections, royal weddings, funerals and coronations, the Queen's Jubilee, seaside outings arranged by the Parish Church Sunday School, the Baptist Chapel Sunday School and the Methodist Chapel Sunday School, fairs and auctions on the Green, blackberry-picking in late September, a steeple chase,

flower shows in local villages, village fetes and a visit of the Prince of Wales to Norwich and to Yarmouth etc.

Sometimes the school had to be closed for a week or more on the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health because of an infectious disease. Many of the illnesses recorded then are rarely heard of now. For a child to be away for a few days and then die was not at all unusual. When one realises what appallingly overcrowded conditions many poorer families lived in, it is not surprising that very few of those children who died had gravestones erected to commemorate them. Children suffered from measles, whooping cough, scarletina, scarlet fever which was often followed by rheumatic fever, diphtheria, consumption or tuberculosis, numerous skin complaints, typhoid, typhus, influenza, cow-pox, water pox, ringworm, to name but some. Schooldays were normally from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon and then 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. so that children could go home for a midday meal. Winter school days from late November to early March finished at 4 o'clock because there was little light after that time. (Electricity was not installed in the school until the summer holiday of 1931).

Attendances were recorded by every half day that a child was present and the registers were meticulously kept. If children arrived too late they lost their mark for that half day. Frequent checks on these were made by visiting clergy or other members of the school board.

Entries in the log book record about three or four children being caned every week for an incredible list of reasons – truancy, insubordination, laughing at another pupil, stoning a teacher, insulting a deaf mute, swearing, having dirty hands, disobedience, striking a monitor, etc.

Teacher training was vastly different in the early days. Children aspiring to be teachers would become monitors at the end of their schooldays and would be paid 1/- (one shilling) a week, which was later increased to 1s. 6d. They would then be examined at the Teacher Training College at Norwich and, if considered suitable, could then become apprentice teachers for five years. This was followed by a further examination after which they were considered to be 'uncertificated' and with more experience 'certificated' assistant teachers. The log book records the names of numerous monitors, many of them proving to be somewhat unsatisfactory in their behaviour and either not passing the examination or leaving for a better paid job.

In the very early days the school curriculum was confined to the subjects of reading, writing, arithmetic (including weights and measures and money), spelling, dictation, geography, and sewing for the girls.

From 1876 school attendance became compulsory for children up to 10 years old. Eventually in 1880 a School Attendance Officer was appointed in Martham to ensure that children attended. In 1883 it is recorded that Richard Rogers was the school attendance officer. He also ran a refreshment house and was an assistant overseer of the poor, which made him particularly aware of the circumstances of the poorer village families.

When the Board School opened there was one large schoolroom and one small classroom, with the infants being taught in the Vicar's School nearby. Over the years more classrooms were added, causing a great deal of noise and

interruption to classes during the building. It did not seem that building work could be arranged for holiday times. In 1893 the school leaving age was raised nationally to 11 and then to 12 in 1899, each time straining the resources of the school.

The following extracts from the School Log Book provide much interesting information

13 Jul 1874 *A boy is admitted to school for the first time. At 11 he did not know 'a letter'.*

15 Mar 1875 *2 Turner boys were admitted, and 'neither knew their letters.'*

A copy of the Inspector's Report, dated 21 December, 1876 stated:

'This is practically a new school, there is still a good deal to be done. The reading is monstrous, and the paper-work wanting in neatness and accuracy... There was no stove on the day of inspection, though the snow was on the ground...' The Inspector expects progress next year and criticises the Board for not keeping the school warm. The stove was then put in and so the grant was paid.

09 Jun 1879 *The new schoolroom was finished and a new infants' mistress appointed.*

07 Jul 1879 *The Board discussed the need for sand or gravel for the paths leading to the school.*

Copy of the Inspector's Report for 1880 concludes that: 'the school has increased and improved considerably during the year...' It recommends a 'proper separation' to be made between the boys' and girls' offices'.

2 Dec 1881 *The school report for 1881 praises the school for improvement and for the good grammar taught to both the girls and boys.*

10 May 1882 *HM Inspector of Factories called to say that no boy under 13 might work full time. Boys must either pass standard 4 or stay at school until age 14.*

15 Sep 1884 *Robert N Worthington, Certified Teacher (1st class) takes of the school. He notes that there are 20 broken panes of glass in the school, defective books, only one 'indistinct' map of England for the 5 classes and no dictionary. He is critical of the standard of reading and mental arithmetic.*

12 Mar 1885 *The fires are stopped. 'No fires at all in the school. Cold chilly weather: still we may manage without.'*

7 Apr 1885 *The visit to Ireland by the Prince of Wales formed the subject of the Geography lesson.*

11 May 1885 *Mr Worthington's instructions to teachers and monitors:*

- *Treat children kindly*

- *Never strike a child*
- *Don't make children unhappy*
- *Use kindness and patience*
- *Be present 10 mins before each school session.*

22 May 1885 1 week's holiday for Whitsun. Floors to be scrubbed and windows cleaned.

27 Jul 1886 Received 1 gallon of ink!!

1 Mar 1887 Geography lesson focuses on the earthquake in the Rhone Valley.

6 Jun 1887 Children are taken on a visit to the Natural History Museum, London.

Throughout the year, Mr Worthington is concentrating on 'good and fluent reading' and 'clear writing'. He regularly examines the classes in arithmetic and 'repetition' (poetry).

20 Sep 1887 With 8 children to a desk, writing lessons are difficult.

20 Oct 1887 Mr Worthington complains to the Clerk over the smell from the Boys' toilets drains.

9 Feb 1888 Books are only in half supply, so children have to share, with the consequence that there is a greater wear and tear.

28 Mar 1888 The older children concentrate on the Queen's route to Florence for their geography lesson.

6 Jul 1888 New timetable: 9.30 to 12.00 with only 10 minutes recreation, 2.00 to 4.30 with no recreation.

1 Oct 1888 At the Board Meeting, Mr Hulme asked for fires to be lit each a.m. and for the scissors to be sharpened.

*Dec 1888 Report of the Inspection:
The new master has not been here very long, but the children are very nicely behaved, and I am glad to report a considerable improvement in all the work, and especially in arithmetic... There was a dampness noticeable in one of the walls which requires attention and the appearance of the school would be greatly improved if the walls were repainted.'*

23 Apr 1890 Humphrey Brunson died as a result of a broken leg. The injury was sustained the previous week in an accident involving a machine. He had not been absent at all in the previous year.

- 16 Mar 1891 *Hannah Brown attended for the first time all winter. She lives in Repps marshes and has to cross the river by boat.*
- 27 Oct 1891 *Master has been elected a member of the Technical Education Committee for the Flegg Hundreds. He was absent for p.m. to attend his first meeting.*
- 2 Oct 1893 *Building operations are in full swing. Complaint about hammering preventing talking lessons being conducted.*
- The History Subjects included in the curriculum are:
Nelson; Tyler's insurrection; Jack Cade's insurrection; Crecy-Calais-Poitiers; Bannockburn; Agincourt; Magna Charta; Persecution of the Lollards; Roger Bacon etc.*
- 20 Nov 1893 *School closed for a week – hoardings in North gable blown down by storm, no fires, very little light & abundance of draughts made it necessary to give a holiday.*
- 5 Dec 1894 *School closed as it is to be used for the annual Pigeon, poultry etc. show.*
- 10 Dec 1894 *School thoroughly cleaned & disinfected after poultry show last week.*
- 18 Dec 1894 *School to remain closed until after Xmas. Bessie Lambert & Ethel Nichols died of diphtheria this week.*
- 7 Jan 1895 *More children are dying from epidemic of diphtheria.*
- 12 Feb 1895 *Weather very severe – chilblains playing havoc in some families.*
- May 1895 *Mixed School. Great additions and improvements have been made to the premises since last inspection and the Board are now to be congratulated on possessing very suitable and serviceable school buildings. The discipline is good and the instruction generally is of a careful and intelligent character. In spite of the recent severe winter the work of the scholars is very creditable, and the general state of the school gives abundant evidence of the energy and industry of the teachers.
The Directress of Needlework reports that the work of the first and second standards is unnecessarily fine.
The answering of the older boys in History was not so good as that of the girls in the same class.*
- Infants School. The school has improved very much both in regard to discipline and instruction. Greater variety of employment is desirable, especially in the case of the babies, whose instruction should be of a brighter character.*

The Staff should be at once strengthened so as to meet the requirements of Article 73 of the Code, which are not at present satisfied.

School Staff 1895-6

<u>Mixed School.</u>	Mr W R Hulme	Principal Teacher
	Miss E Musk	Assistant
	Miss L Raven	Assistant
	Miss Pitman	
	Rosa Francis	
	Maud Futter	
<u>Infants School.</u>	Leah Dyball	
	Mrs Hulme	Certificated Assistant
	Bessie Greenacre	
	Emma Dove	

7 May 1895	<i>Gladys Shreeve, an infant, is said to have been run over & killed on her way to school.</i>
16 May 1895	<i>First school concert held 'Proceeds in aid of Sports Fund'. 'Twas an unqualified success.</i>
25 Nov 1895	<i>Slates, pens & books received from Jarrolds & Educational Supply Association.</i>
21 Jul 1896	<i>Maggie Fretwell & Alice Mason successfully gained a County Council Junior Scholarship.</i>
12 Oct 1896	<i>Vicar visits – sends coal from vicarage to make fires as the coal ordered has not been delivered.</i>
3 Dec 1897	<i>Quarter ends today – last month attendances have been bad owing to several cases of scarletina, water pox & ringworm and latterly of bad stormy weather.</i>
6 Jul 1898	<i>Receive following resolution from the Clerk "That it be an instruction to the Master, to prohibit Cricket or any other form of Ball or Stone throwing (in future) on the play grounds. All windows broken by scholars, the Board will expect those in default to pay the damage.</i>
9 Sep 1899	<i>The new floor in the hall is a vast improvement on the old (Wood Block).</i>
17 Oct 1899	<i>The Nuisance Inspector visits. The state of the village in respect to sickness had been discussed at the District Council this morning and he came to consult about closing the school. Told him Board would not do so unless ordered by the medical officer, but that I had numbers away with throat infections and that several became unwell while in school and were now absent, but that we exercised every care in excluding children from infected houses.</i>

- 18 Oct 1899 *Receive notice by post to have school 'thoroughly disinfected at once'. Another 2 hours later to close school until further notice.*
- 13 Nov 1899 *School reopens after closing for sickness.*
- School closed from 20 Feb 1900-2 Apr 1900 (6 weeks) owing to outbreak of measles – on Medical Officer of Health's advice.*
- 28 May 1900 *Deviation from timetable – children go outside viewing eclipse 2.50 to 3.10 and 3.50 to 4.00 through smoked glass. Explanation of eclipses instead of first lesson (drawing & sewing).*
- 1 Jun 1900 *Since 24 Jul 1899 school open only two-fifths of time possible because of compulsory closure by Minister of Health. Number of cases of whooping cough increases.*

Martham Board School

Head (Principal) Teachers:

Ellen Charlotte Rust	31 Mar 1873
George Wilton	14 Jun 1875
Alfred Roskilly	7 Jan 1879
Robert N Worthington	15 Sep 1884
William Roland Hulme	25 Jun 1888

THE BOARD SCHOOL BECOMES THE COUNCIL SCHOOL

Following the Education Act of 1902 all Board Schools were taken under the care of the Local Education Authority which in the case of Martham was the Norfolk County Council. It was then a Council School, controlled in every way by the County Council although there was still a Board of Managers. There still seemed to be shortages of space, books and other equipment. When there was an inspection in 1904 it was recommended that more teachers should be employed, as the Head Teacher was teaching the top three standards in addition to overseeing the infants' classes. Soon after that the infants became a separate department. In 1907 the inspectors were most critical because only the head teacher was fully qualified with a certificate. A school Honours board was provided in 1907. Looking at this now, it is wonderful to see the names of several children who were later to make very significant contributions to the life of the village community and beyond. The old style desks and forms were in



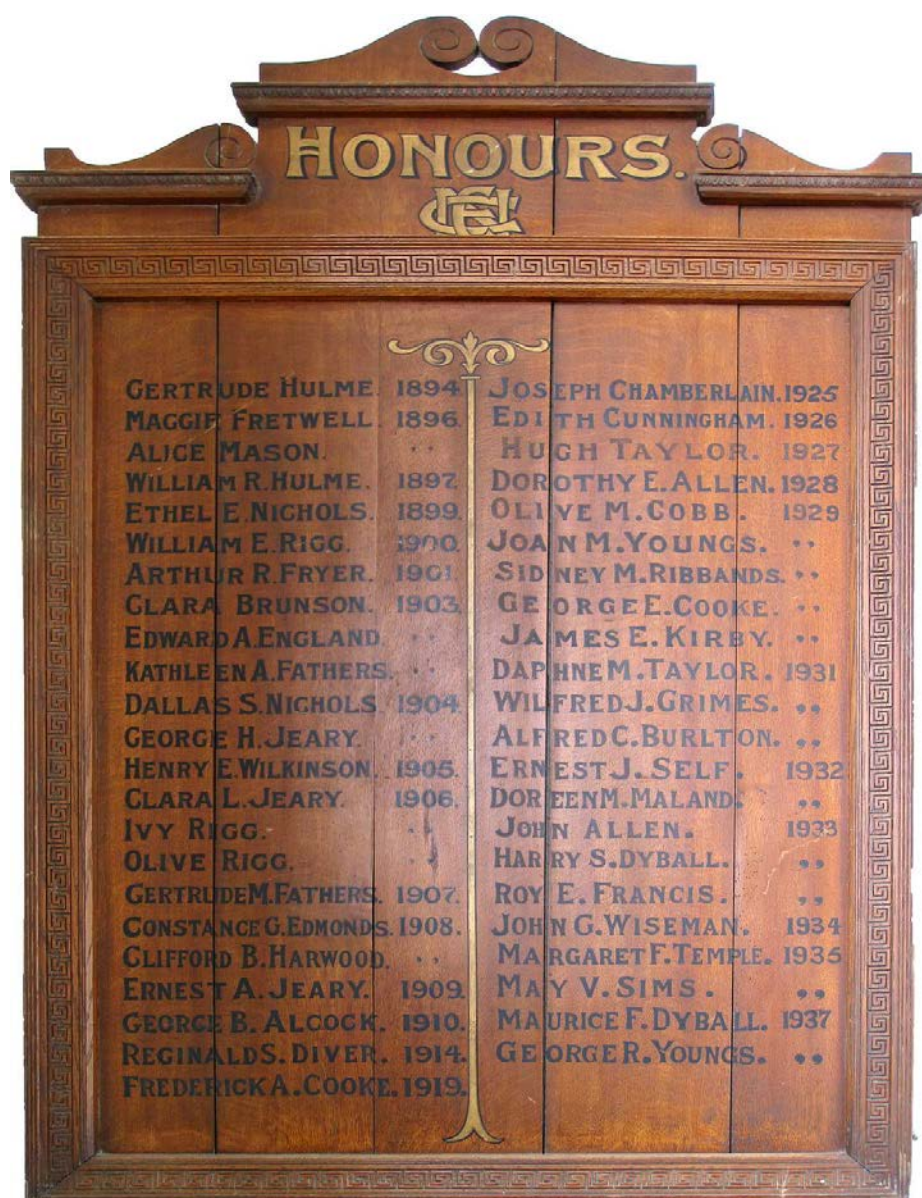
Children from the Board School circa. 1902

use until 1911 when more modern and comfortable desks with a seat with a back rest arrived.

The school buildings were rarely adequate for the needs of the children. In 1905 cookery lessons were held in the Vicars School and later in 1912 were transferred to the Oddfellows Hall.

After the 1914 -1918 War Medical inspections at the school became a regular feature. Numerous visits of the doctor, dentist and nurse are mentioned, especially the 'nit nurse'!

One small girl named Gladys Victoria Linford started school at the age of five in 1904 and 58 years later retired having never left the school. In her day those intending to become teachers would stay on when they reached school leaving age – 13, to become 'pupil teachers' until they were experienced enough and had passed the necessary examination at the Training College in Norwich to be sufficiently qualified as teachers. Miss Linford stayed at Martham School after her training and then married Mr Bates from Rollesby. Their home there was in the Martham Road. She 'biked' to school every day from there for all her working life until she retired in 1962 – an incredible record.



THE INFANT SCHOOL 1904 TO 1943

For the period 1904 to 1943 the Infants' School, although on the same site as the Council School, became independent with its own head teacher, who from 1916 kept her own log book. Initially there were 72 children enrolled including two children under three and three under five. Suddenly it seems, on the retirement of the head teacher Miss Minnie Josh on 15th January 1943 the Infants' school was amalgamated with the Junior Mixed.

The following extracts from the Log Books describe vividly many of the events of the Council School from 1902.

Jan 1902

Mr Benjamin Fathers took over as Principal Teacher.

2 Nov 1905

Received sad intelligence of the death of Revd George Merriman, Chairman of Managers. As Mr Merriman has been so many years connected with the schools & has been a constant visitor, a letter of condolence was sent to Mrs Merriman from teachers & scholars.

	<i>Revd F G France takes over from George Merriman.</i>
<i>24 May 1911</i>	<i>Empire Day. Took first hour for singing patriotic songs on the playground & dancing round the Maypole.</i>
<i>11 Jul 1912</i>	<i>Revd. France (School Manager) leaves to take up appointment at Ipswich.</i>
<i>26 Aug 1912</i>	<i>A terrific storm of winds & rain during the afternoon. Rain drove under the tiles and soaked through the ceiling and partially flooded the North main room.</i>
<i>27 Aug 1912</i>	<i>As children went home nearly all roads were flooded & blocked by fallen trees. In consequence of the effects of the storms, flooded & blocked roads and probably getting very wet going home yesterday, another short attendance. Desks & floor still wet. Had to rearrange position of classes & gave the South classroom for use of infants whose rooms were quite unfit for occupation. Water got into the store cupboard and has ruined the whole stock of text books for primary teachers.</i>
<i>21 Feb 1916</i>	<i>The school was entered during the night of Friday 18th by a deserting soldier who got in through an unfastened window, passed the night, opened & ransacked all drawers which he could & took away a box of India rubbers, pencil case & other small articles.</i>
<i>16 May 1916</i>	<i>Edward and Albert Knowles arrived at school at 2.30pm and consequently marked absent. Otherwise there was a perfect attendance.</i>
<i>12 Dec 1916</i>	<i>Notified case of measles (Blanche Gymer) to Dr Nash and Dr Roydon.</i>
<i>Nov 1917</i>	<i>2 children die as the result of having croup.</i>
<i>20 Feb 1918</i>	<i>Head Teacher had to teach all classes, this caused a deviation from the time table.</i>
<i>29 Apr 1918</i>	<i>Received notice Agnes Brookes (suffering from impetigo) may return to school if better.</i>
<i>27 Sep 1918</i>	<i>Commenced to open afternoon session at 1pm and close at 3.15pm to enable children to go blackberrying. This continues on Weds & Fridays through the month.</i>
<i>4 Nov 1918</i>	<i>School closed from 4th - 15th inclusive owing to influenza, by order of S.M.C.</i>

- 10 Nov 1919 *School reopened after one week holiday – for Peace. I'm in sole charge of the school – no Head Mistress of the Infants. Gladys V Linford (U.C.)*
- 9 Jan 1920 *Alfred Gilding died from diphtheria.*
- 7 Feb 1920 *Miss Josh Commenced duties here as Head Teacher of Infants.*
- 22 Oct 1920 *As a Football League is being formed amongst the schools in the district & the boys are anxious to join it, we are forming a club, & I am allowing the boys an organised practice once a week. Owing to shortness of staff I am unable to superintend these games myself [headmaster], but have obtained the assistance of a very reliable young man Mr W Kirkland to take charge of the games when I cannot be present.*
- 15 Apr 1921 *Report by His Majesty's Inspector Mr Key:*
Infants – General
There are some very good points about this school. The children read with unusual confidence and fluency. They write a neat and legible hand. They are self-reliant and well informed for their years.
The instruction is well valued and is on sound lines. The habit of collective answering should be discouraged as it not only lends to unnecessary noise but has an adverse effect on real expression.
When called upon individually the children lack confidence and are unable to express their thoughts verbally; although there is no sign of shyness when answering in chorus.
- 29 Mar 1922 *The nurse visited and examined the heads of suspect children, Miriam Lambert & Alma Woods are excluded till they are cleaned.*
- 31 Oct 1922 *No school held this afternoon owing to a 'Sale of Work' in the big room. The sum of £12.5.0 realised – proceeds to the School Piano Fund.*
- 16 Jan 1923 *Nurse Bygrave inspects the children – two girls were sent home for dirty heads.*
- 1 Dec 1924 *School closed today until the end of the Xmas Vacation, January 3rd 1925 by order of Dr Nash (S.M.O.) owing to the epidemic of measles.*
- 15 Jun 1925 *For an hour this afternoon a few of the older boys dug a portion of adjoining land and planted potatoes.*
- 4 May 1927 *Miss L Newbury, County Librarian addresses a gathering of parishioners at 1130. The meeting was presided over by Mr HW Jeary, the chairman of the Managers. A Branch Library*

- Committee was formed and the Book Van left 200 volumes for the use of readers.
- 29 Aug 1927 *During the summer vacation the school was renovated & painted internally and concrete pathways were put down outside all porchways.*
- 3 Oct 1928 *This morning the Boys & Girls of 11+ were separated – the girls occupying the south classroom, and the boys the south end of the large room. This change is the first step in the re-organisation rendered necessary by the recent advance in Educational Reform.*
- 12 Mar 1929 *Copy of Report received today. **Infants.**
This is one of the most happily and successfully managed Infants Schools in the County.
The Head Mistress and her Assistant are to be congratulated.*
- 20 Jan 1930 *Three children admitted from Horsey who have been attending Somerton School.*
- 8 Sep 1930 *School reopened this morning. This morning 18 locker tables & 36 chairs arrived from Messrs Mann Egerton, Norwich. During the holidays the galleries were removed from the N & S classrooms & floors re-blocked.*
- 10 Nov 1931 *It is with regret that I record the sad intelligence of the death of Mr HW Jeary, who for the past 26 years has been Chairman of the Managers and Honorary Correspondent for 12 years. As an expression of their sympathy the Staff and Scholars are placing a wreath on the grave.*
- 3 Nov 1932 *Six carpenters' benches arrived today from the East Dereham Handicraft Centre. 20 dual desks received from Messrs Mann Egerton, Norwich.*
- 20 Jan 1936 *The Milk Scheme commenced this morning. 127 children in the mixed & infants departments received $\frac{1}{2}$ pint each.*
- 21 May 1936 *At the Thurne District Sports this evening, the school secured Top Place, winning the Boardman Challenge Shield.*
- 7 Sep 1936 *During the vacation a hot water system was installed in the Mixed Department.*
- 14 Feb 1938 *During Saturday night, Horsey was flooded by the sea, making a breach in the sand hills. The population was evacuated – in consequence sixteen Horsey children attending this school will not be present for quite a while – they are accommodated temporarily in neighbouring villages.*
- 24 Mar 1938 *This morning 39 senior children visited Yarmouth to inspect an LNER demonstrator train.*

1939 TO 1945 – THE WAR YEARS

As a sign of things to come, the school was closed for the two days of 28th & 29th September 1938 as it was required for ARP (Air Raid Protection) purposes. Below are some of the significant events of the war years as mentioned in the log books:



Schoolgirls on their way to school carrying gas masks in boxes

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2 Aug 1939 | <i>The children all had gas masks fitted before they broke up for the summer holidays.</i> |
| 20 Oct 1939 | <i>The children were all examined on the fitting of their gas masks.</i> |
| 24 Oct 1939 | <i>The school held an exercise on entering the trenches on the playing field in case there was an air raid.</i> |
| 10 Nov 1939 | <i>The gas masks were inspected.</i> |
| 11 Jul 1940 | <i>A salvo of bombs dropped within 60 yards of the school at 6.30 a.m. but the attendance was unaffected.</i> |
| 8 Apr 1941 | <i>There was a low attendance because there had been a severe air raid the previous night.</i> |

<i>22 Apr 1941</i>	<i>A deputation called with reference to window protection.</i>
<i>6 Mar 1942</i>	<i>In 'Warship Week' the school National Savings group invested £300.5s.0d.</i>
<i>2 Jul 1942</i>	<i>A complete gas mask inspection was made.</i>
<i>11 Jan 1943</i>	<i>The school dinner service commenced in the Church Room. 103 children were served.</i>
<i>21 May 1944</i>	<i>During "Wings of Victory Week" the National savings of the school totalled £701.3s.6d.</i>
<i>7 Jul 1944</i>	<i>It was reported that last night the school had been hit by machine gun fire.</i>
<i>12 Jul 1944</i>	<i>A gift of two bars of chocolate for each child was received from the Optimists Club of Toronto.</i>
<i>29 Apr 1945</i>	<i>News came that schoolmaster Mr. H.R. Newton had been killed in action.</i>
<i>28 May 1945</i>	<i>The school National Savings for "Salute the Soldiers Week" totalled £289.14s.6d.</i>
<i>31 Jan 1946</i>	<i>The school dinner service ceased.</i>

SOME EVENTS FROM 1946 RECORDED IN THE LOGBOOKS

<i>1946</i>	<i>During the summer holidays the lavatories were renovated.</i>
<i>Sep 1947</i>	<i>The school leaving age was raised to 15. A new class was formed for children over 14 from Martham, Hemsby and Repps. The children from Hemsby were provided with bicycles to cycle to school.</i>
<i>19 Jan 1949</i>	<i>John Dyball swallowed two of his counting shells this morning. He was sent home with his sister to see the doctor.</i>
<i>31 Oct 1949</i>	<i>Two cycle sheds each holding 10 cycles were completed.</i>
<i>19 Jan 1950</i>	<i>The school started having meals in the new dining room but the food was brought from the Ludham canteen.</i>
<i>Feb 1950</i>	<i>There was a measles epidemic. Children under seven who had not had it were excluded from school.</i>
<i>24 Mar 1950</i>	<i>The first meeting was held to discuss forming a Parent/Teacher Association.</i>
<i>25 May 1950</i>	<i>Capt. Locke an Army Lecturer came and talked to the boys over 14 about the army and National Service.</i>

- 15 Nov 1950 *Boxing tournament. Martham v. Hemsby. The Hemsby boys won 4 – 3.*
- Jan 1951 *There was an Influenza epidemic. The Medical Officer of Health advised the closure of the school.*
- Mar 1951 *Police Constable Haste inspected all the children's bicycles in order to award a prize for the best, but not one was worth a prize.*
- Dec 1951 *The cesspool on the school field was emptied by the Rural District Council tanker.*
- Sep 1952 *The new woodwork centre was opened. [Boys from Rollesby School were also brought by bus to use it.]*
- Feb 1953 *£3. 2s. 6d. collected at the school was sent to the Norfolk Flood Relief Fund.*
- May 1953 *The school celebrated the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II with a pageant round the village which included scenes from Merry England, Drake at Plymouth, and Queen Elizabeth I reviewing the troops at Tilbury.*



Schoolchildren during a Coronation Procession in 1953

- Sep 1953 *The School now had a water supply which had been installed during the holidays. It was still well water.*
- Nov 1953 *The building of three new class rooms started.*
- Jul 1953 *The school held the first sports day at the Recreation ground.*

<i>Sep 1953</i>	<i>The school took 11 year-old children from West Somerton, Thurne and Repps.</i>
<i>7 Mar 1954</i>	<i>Teacher Mr John Hudson died. He had collapsed while cycling to school.</i>
<i>15 Mar 1954</i>	<i>Tony Dowe was chosen as a ball boy for the Cup Final at Wembley on 7th May. This was considered a great honour.</i>
<i>May 1955</i>	<i>A bee colony was established at the school so that children could learn bee-keeping.</i>
<i>Apr 1957</i>	<i>The first continental holiday for pupils was a great success. A visit to Rambouillet in France.</i>
<i>22 Jun 1957</i>	<i>Mains water was connected to the school.</i>
<i>Apr 1958</i>	<i>Mrs. Cooke became a teacher at the school after serving as the school secretary. She was a qualified teacher.</i>
<i>25 Jul 1962</i>	<i>Mrs G.V.Bates retired after 58 years at the school.</i>
<i>Jan to Mar 1963</i>	<i>The big freeze. The water in the toilets was frozen until mid-March.</i>

THE SCHOOL BECAME MARTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 1963

<i>Sep 1963</i>	<i>The Martham Secondary Modern School opened in Somerton Road for the children aged 11+. Only 99 children were left at the old school. 20 children joined from Repps School when that school became an Infants School. An office was opened for the Head and the Secretary.</i>
<i>Jan 1964</i>	<i>A television set was delivered to the school.</i>
<i>Nov 1965</i>	<i>Central heating was installed.</i>
<i>23 Jun 1970</i>	<i>Mr London the Headmaster of the Secondary Modern school visited to talk to those children who will be joining his school in September.</i>
<i>Jun 1971</i>	<i>Swimming lessons started at Newport Holiday Camp at Hemsby.</i>
<i>Dec 1971</i>	<i>The first mobile classroom arrived.</i>
<i>7 Oct 1972</i>	<i>Mr. Jimmy Bensley died. He had been a school Manager for 52 years.</i>
<i>15 Jul 1977</i>	<i>This was the last sports day for Martham Primary School. One parent was heard to remark "until that is, the future</i>

pundits of education realise that the best part of our educational system is the old village infant & junior school and in 20 years' time decide to introduce a brilliant new concept in education – primary schools covering the age range 5 to 11."

THE SCHOOL BECAME MARTHAM FIRST SCHOOL

<i>Jan 1978</i>	<i>The West Flegg Middle School opened in Black Street, Martham and the old Primary School became Martham First School. Soon, the four mobile classrooms no longer needed were removed.</i>
<i>8 Oct 1979</i>	<i>The Youth Centre in the playground caught fire.</i>
<i>Nov 1979</i>	<i>There were two cases of children having Meningitis.</i>
<i>29 Oct 1980</i>	<i>The central heating boiler failed. Parents brought electric heaters to school and the children wore their coats indoors.</i>
<i>9 Apr 1981</i>	<i>There were complaints about the bad behaviour and offensive language of some of the members of the Youth Centre in the playground. The School Kitchen began to supply meals to Somerton Primary School and Hemsby First School and for Meals on Wheels on Tuesdays and Thursdays.</i>
<i>30 Apr 1982</i>	<i>A disease resistant Elm tree was planted as part of the 'Elms over Europe' campaign to replace Elm trees that had died from Dutch Elm disease.</i>
<i>16 Feb 1984</i>	<i>The old School bell was returned after being repaired.</i>
<i>9 Jan 1985</i>	<i>The school was closed for two days because the heating oil had frozen.</i>
<i>14 Feb 1985</i>	<i>One classroom was turned into a new library, welfare assistant's room, a medical room and a television room.</i>
<i>10 Jan 1986</i>	<i>The piano overturned when Mr Lewins was moving it and it fell onto his foot.</i>
<i>24 Jun 1987</i>	<i>As required under the 1986 Education Act, a meeting was held for Governors to meet Parents. Eleven parents attended.</i>
<i>16 Jul 1987</i>	<i>Teacher Mr R. Hudson's jacket was stolen from his classroom whilst he and his class had gone to visit the churchyard.</i>
<i>28 Jun 1988</i>	<i>The second meeting for governors and parents was held. Only four parents attended.</i>

14 Dec 1988	<i>The Friends of Martham First School made Mr and Mrs [George and Clarice] Cooke honorary life members.</i>
30 Oct 1989	<i>The Youth Centre building was removed from the playground and a car park made.</i>
21 Jan 1990	<i>The first computer for the school arrived.</i>
5 Jun 1991	<i>There was a break-in overnight. The school office was ransacked and £69.59 was stolen.</i>
22 Jul 1991	<i>The bell tower was replaced after being weather proofed by the firm of Smith and Sales in the village.</i>
30 Sep 1991	<i>Anglia Television came to the village to film "The Chief". Ten children from the First School and ten from the Middle school went to be 'extras'.</i>
2 Nov 1991	<i>Mrs Sharrock represented the school at the wedding of Mrs Cooke to Mr Gilbert Wasley.</i>
30 Mar 1992	<i>A balloon race was held.</i>
22 May 1992	<i>Mrs Wasley (formerly Mrs Cooke) came to bring the picnic chairs she had donated to the school and to present the prize for the balloon that had travelled the furthest.</i>
17 Sep 1993	<i>There was another break-in and videos, tapes and the television were stolen.</i>
Apr 1994	<i>The new building work started last December was completed.</i>
26 Apr 1994	<i>An ex-pupil Adam Bould was buried in the churchyard with full military honours from the R.A.F. with rifle fire, the Last Post and a fly past, all of which was observed by the children and staff.</i>
3 Oct 1994	<i>An 'open week' was held to celebrate the completion of the new building. Mrs Ryan who was an ex-pupil and later a teacher and Mr Knights an ex-pupil and two young children cut the tape to open the new building.</i>
8 Nov 1994	<i>The first meeting of the Book Club was held.</i>
8 May 1995	<i>The school had a holiday to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day.</i>
30 Oct 1995	<i>New heating was installed in the canteen.</i>
24 Sep 1996	<i>The new Nursery unit was opened.</i>
Sep 1997	<i>During the holidays the school had been re-carpeted and re-decorated.</i>

<i>10 Sep 1997</i>	<i>New 'airline' trays were introduced for lunches.</i>
<i>Sep 1998</i>	<i>During the holidays play houses and trains had been installed in the playground.</i>
<i>17 Mar 1999</i>	<i>Willow tunnels were planted in the school grounds.</i>
<i>7 Jul 1999</i>	<i>A new classroom was opened following building work.</i>
<i>25 Sep 2000</i>	<i>Discussions began about the re-organisation of the school to become a primary school for 5 to 11 year olds.</i>
<i>19 Mar 2003</i>	<i>The head teachers met to discuss plans for a primary school on the Middle School site.</i>
<i>9 Jun 2003</i>	<i>This was the start of 'Walk to school and healthy eating' week.</i>
<i>7 Jul 2003</i>	<i>A 'Celebration' week was held to celebrate 130 years of the school having been on the site.</i>

In July 2008, sadly the school finally closed as all the children would in future be taught at the new Martham Primary School in Black Street. The old school buildings dating from 1873 were redundant. Many treasured features and fittings were moved to the new school.

Martham Council School Head Teachers

Mr B Fathers	3 January 1902 to 30 September 1921
Mr F S Taylor	14 December 1921 to 31 March 1949
Miss Callender (Head of infants school)	
Miss M Josh (Head of Infants school)	7 February 1920 to January 1943
Mr J A Laws	2 May 1949
Mr M A Wakeman	5 May 1954
Mr J R Strachan	29 April 1966
Mr R Lewins	1 January 1971
Mrs E Hambly	1 September 1989
Mrs M Bird	1 January 1992
Mr J Dye	1 September 2006



Schoolchildren in Church Street in 1903

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the Parish of Martham. These are held at the Norfolk Record Office under references PD 710/1, 3 and 7

Correspondence between the Revd. George Pearse and the Norwich Diocese. NRO Reference DCN/ZW/1-19

The Minutes & Accounts of the Martham Educational Charity 1883 to 1897.

Martham Board School Log Book NRO Reference ACC/114

Martham Overseers Account Books NRO Reference PD/710/68 & 69 and MF 1820/2- 229 & MF 1820 234 - 422

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The Post Office Directories of Norfolk published by W. Kelly and Co. in 1853, 1858, 1875, 1879, 1883, 1888, 1892 and 1896.

History Gazetteer and Directory of Norfolk and the city of Norwich published by William White in 1836 and 1845.

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Carter E.H. 'The Norwich Subscription Books: a study of the Books of the Diocese of Norwich 1637 to 1800.' Published by Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd. 1937

The Booklet 'Martham School 1873 – 2003'

The will of Christopher Amys dated 1622 transcribed by Dr. Mary Fewster



**Filming an episode of Anglia TVs "The Chief" on 30 Sep 1991
the location is Martham Green**

