



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

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Title: Digital Archive: Michaelchurch Escley School, "From the great fire to the evacuees"

Place name: Michaelchurch Escley

Date: 1938 to 1942

Description:
The book entitled "From the great fire to the evacuees".



The History of Ewyas Lacy

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MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY SCHOOL

1938 - 1942

"From the great fire to the evacuees"





The History of Ewyas Lacy

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In this book we plot the history of Michaelchurch Escley School through 4 very turbulent years using official records and the memories of those who were there. We start with the disastrous fire and follow the events concerning the building of the new school, the beginning of the Second World War and the arrival of the evacuees from Bootle in the village. The book marks the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the new school on December 4th 1989. The event was celebrated by a fortnights Festival which included a tea party for the pupils who were on roll during the years 1938 - 1942, from whom much of the information was gleaned, and to whom we are indebted.



"The birds had carried some straw close to the stove pipe. The pipe was still hot and in the night the straw caught on fire and it all went up in flames. There was a little dog called Dandy and he was burned. Miss Isherwood and Mr. and Mrs. Jones went to live at Halt Farm. The school was held at the Cottage Room".

Mrs G.Christopher

"I was nine years old when I remembered seeing a fire behind some trees. I said to my dad that the school is on fire. But dad thought it was Mr. Lewis burning bushes. Later a neighbour told me that the school had been burnt down. Mr. Powell [Firs Farm] had helped the fire brigade put the fire out. We think the school was empty but Miss Isherwood was in the school house. She was rescued by Mr. and Mrs. Phillips. They let her live at New House Farm House until the school was rebuilt."

Kenneth Altree

We don't know whether they went to live at Halt Farm or New House Farm.

"My father owned a thrashing machine contracting business. He used to go up and down the road with his steam tractor. He used to blow the whistle as he went past and if we were on the playground we used to run up to the wall and wave to him. The night of the fire the steam tractor driver went down to the Bridge Inn, Michaelchurch, and came back to our farm, The Clothier's", and said that the school was burnt down. I could hardly believe it so I made the effort the following morning to walk down the bank from Cefn Kest and I saw for myself that he was right and I was very disappointed so I just went back home. There was thought to be a terrier burnt in the fire."

(Ceoil Pritchard.)



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MICHAELCHURCH MAIL 3d

—25th MARCH 1938—

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SCHOOL

On Thursday evening at 5:30 pm a disastrous fire broke out at Michaelchurch School. Luckily no one was hurt. The Headmistress, Miss Isherwood, got in with the help of a neighbour, name unknown, and bravely saved the log book and also the Attendance Register. It is thought that the school burnt down because the coal fire in the school caught hold of the oak timbers and then it started. The blaze could be seen for a mile. In the morning it was a devastating sight. The school and school house are now in ruins. The Education Department are looking for temporary premises. The school will

not be open for at least a month. It has been suggested that the Cottage Room would be a good place but it must be cleared with Mr. Trafford, the landowner.

When we talked to the children there they were excited and sad. I myself saw it in the morning and the timbers were still smouldering.

Reporter: Rhyannon Williams.



All the news as it happens..for 3d



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"Miss Isherwood was a good teacher, with strict discipline and very keen for all the children to do well and to be competitive. She and Mrs. Jones her friend (she was Miss Halliday) trained us for the musical festivals at the Shire Hall in Hereford. Many times we won cups and certificates in classes for folk singing and 'Rounds'. Sadly many of these were lost in the fire. I recall she had the Manchester Guardian delivered everyday by post. I think she was a northerner. She always liked the girl pupils to be smartly dressed with red jumpers and navy pleated gym tunics in the winter and in summer we wore brown cotton slips like pinafores, made by the older girls from material provided by the teacher. If a parent was not able to afford a school uniform Miss Isherwood bought it for them and it was kept in school, the child changing on arrival at school and back again before going home."

(Eillen Farr nee Altree)

School Log Book

25th April 1938

On March 24th at 5.30 pm a disastrous fire broke out in the school. The school and school house were completely burnt out - only log book and registers were saved.

The school re-opened today in the "Cottage Room", a temporary building until the school is rebuilt. All the children present - two new children admitted - each five years of age.

"During the fire they managed to get the Headteachers desk out. The whole desk was too big so they had to saw off its legs so that they could get it out of the door."

(Jim Davies)

"When the school was burned down I remember my parents talking about it. It must have been a major catastrophe in this sleepy mountain village. I remember the derelict building with a piece jutting out with 'Library' in red letters."

(Eileen Farr nee Altree)

"I have happy memories of my childhood and schooldays at Michaelchurch School and will always be grateful that I was lucky enough to attend a village school where discipline was strict but fair. I well remember arriving at school with my brother one morning and finding no school after the fire, the excitement of going to the Cottage Room and then the excitement of the evacuees from Liverpool increasing the number of pupils."

(Nancy McCall)



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Elementary Education Sub-Committee Minutes 30th April 1938

Michaelchurch Escley Council School.

Your sub-committee regret to report the total destruction by fire on the 24th March 1938 of the above named school and teachers dwelling house. They have authorised negotiations being entered into with the owner of the building known as The Cottage Room, Michaelchurch, for the hire of such a building as temporary school accomodation subject to the premises being approved by H.M. Inspectors as suitable for this purpose. They have also expressed to Miss Isherwood, Headmistress, their thanks for the successful efforts made by her and a neighbour in saving at great personal risk the School Log Book and Attendance Registers.

Education Finance Sub-Committee Minutes 30th April 1938

In connection with the destruction of fire of this school on the 24th March 1938 your sub-committee have considered applications for payments for;

- 1) Physical training clothes and shoes belonging to the children attending the school.
- 2) Woodwork tools belonging to the Handicraft Instructor.
- 3) Text books and other special books for instructional purposes belonging to the assistant teacher.
- 4) Piano, gramophone, hanging lamps, books and various materials belonging to the Head Teacher.

And have passed accounts for payment amounting to £ 46 1s 1d.

School Log Book 27th May 1938

HMI Phillips visited the school this morning. He inspected the room in which the school is being held until the new school is built. He did not inspect the childrens work but was very pleased with the arrangements for lunch and dinner.

School Log Book 23rd June 1938

School will be closed tomorrow by order of the Managers as a local shearing match will be held in the village.



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Elementary Education Sub-Committee Minutes 2nd July 1938

Following destruction by fire of these premises the Cottage Room, Michaelchurch has been rented as temporary school premises from Mr. Trafford of Michaelchurch Court. The agreed rent is 25/- per week. A portion of field adjoining the school has been fenced off as a playground and for physical exercises at a rent of £4. The tenancy commenced as from 19th April 1938 and the school re-assembled on Monday 25th April.

Salaries Sub-Committee Minutes 2nd July 1938

Michaelchurch Escley Council School... Cleaners salary increased from £2 to £4 10s 0d as temporary measure from 25th April.

Finance Sub-Committee Minutes 2nd July 1938

Urgent... Michaelchurch Escley School and House.. re-building.. £2000

School Log Book 21st July 1938

Mrs Cole (Supply Teacher) was exceedingly rude in school today in front of the whole school. When I informed her later in the day that I should report her to the Educ. Authorities she was very rude again.

School Log Book 5th September 1938

School re-opened after the holiday. 36/37 present.

School Log Book 5th October 1938

Received orders from the School Correspondent that school is to be closed tomorrow because of a local ploughing match.

Building and Equipment Sub-Committee Minutes 22nd October 1938

Plans for the re-building of the above named school have been submitted to the Board of Education who state that the arrangements shown thereon appear to be generally satisfactory but that one of the classrooms falls below the area which the Board would normally be prepared to accept. The Board of Education have been informed that it is very desirable that the size of the two classrooms should not be altered having regard to the fact that the main classroom with its present dimensions will be extremely useful for physical training.

Builders are being invited by advertisement to tender for the re-building of the school.



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Education Finance Sub-Committee

22nd October 1938

You sub-committee are pleased to report that the Insurance Companies participating in the Consolidated Fire Insurance Policy have paid the sum of £2250 12s Od being the amount of the Councils claim in connection with the destruction by fire of the School and Dwelling House at Michaelchurch Escley. The amount of insurance due was £2150 and the Companies have paid an additional sum of £100 12s Od over and above the amount of the Policy in consideration of a premium on the additional amount of the claim being paid for a period of 10 years - a nominal sum of about 12s.

Education Committee

22nd October 1938

Tenders submitted for the re-building of Michaelchurch Escley Council School.

Mr. C. Bowyer, Peterchurch	£ 1760 0s Od
Messrs W. A. Greening and Son, Hereford	£ 2298 0s Od
Mr. T. J. Watkins, Peterchurch	£ 2600 0s Od
Messrs W. Powell and Sons, Hereford	£ 2700 0s Od
Messrs Beavan and Hodges, Hereford	£ 3065 0s Od
Messrs J. Evans and Son, Malvern	£ 3725 0s Od

RESOLVED That the tenders be referred to a Special Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Education Committee, and of the Buildings, Higher Education, Library and Finance Sub-Committees, with the power to recommend a Tender for acceptance to the County Council.

School Log Book

25th November 1938

Two Aladdin radiators were delivered today.

School Log Book

22nd December 1938

School closes today for the Christmas holidays to re-open on January 9th. Two children leave school - one 14 years of age and the other will attain 14 years during the holidays.



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1939

School Log Book 9th January 1939

School re-opened today. 6 children absent. 1 with Scarlet Fever.

School Log Book 26th January 1939

Terrific snowstorm and gale. Deep drifts on the roads and fields - only six children arrived at school. After giving them hot drinks they were sent home again as the snow was still falling heavily.

"I was in Hereford shopping with Miss Isherwood to get some material for a dress. We were watching the ice flows go down the River Wye. During the big freeze up the branches of the tree were breaking like gunshots. Even the blades of grass were spikes of ice"

(Mrs Sylvia Jones nee Howard)

Building and Equipment Sub-Committee Minutes 21st January 1939

Michaelchurch Esley Council School

a) On the recommendations on the Special Committee....the County Council at their last meeting accepted the tender of Mr.C.Bowyer amounting to £1760 for re-building the above named school and house. The Board of Education have approved the acceptance of Mr.Bowyers tender, the cost to be met from the amount received from the Insurance Companies.

The commencement of the work has been deferred to enable the Special Committee to give furthur consideration to Mr.Bowyers tender.

b) The heating of the temporary school premises at the Cottage Room, Michaelchurch, has been improved by the provision of Aladdin oil radiators at a cost of £20 5s Od.

Education Committee Minutes 21st January 1939

That the Special Committee be empowered to present to the County Finance Committee an estimate for a sum equal to the amount of the 2nd tender, namely £2298, if it is found to be impossible to obtain a cheaper tender for the re-building of the school at Michaelchurch Esley.



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School Log Book 3rd February 1939

The Attendance Officer called today. 25/32 present. Some children still unable to attend owing to blocked roads.

When talking to the former pupils we heard many stories of arguments in front of the children between Miss Isherwood and Mrs. Cole.

School Log Book 2nd March 1939

This morning because I asked Mrs. Cole not to disarrange some stockings I had placed on the fireguard she put on her hat and coat and said she was going home and never coming back to school again. When I informed her of the folly of such an action she remained at school but went out at dinner time and came back to school late in the afternoon. This is the third time she has informed me that she is going home and never returning.

School Log Book 17th March 1939

Mr Williams, Physical Training Instructor for the County and an HMI called at school today - as physical training has to be taken on the road at present they watched the children there. They stated that the work was quite good in spite of the many difficulties.

School Log Book 18th April 1939

New girl admitted today - 6 years of age. First attendance at school.

School Admission Book 18th April 1939

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Travers Olive	26.2.33	The Blainey	John Travers

This little girl turns out to be Mrs. Olive Howells, the present school Cleaner in Charge.

Building and Equipment Sub-Committee Minutes 22nd April 1939

Mr. C. Bowyer has withdrawn his tender for the re-building of the school and dwelling house and the next lower tender, namely that of Messrs W.A. Greening and Son, amounting to £2298 10s 0d has been accepted. The work is in progress.



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Salaries Sub-Committee Minutes

8th July 1939

A number of out distance children who have not recently attended any school have been admitted and additional temporary assistance is necessary to enable these backward children to receive special instruction. Your sub-committee have authorised the appointment of a temporary additional teacher to the 31st March 1940.

Your sub-committee recommend that the salaries of the under mentioned Supplementary Teachers be increased as shown taking effect from the 1st July next.

Michaelchurch Escley Council School

Mrs D.M.Cole From £ 85 to £ 90

We had many old pupils refer to the conditions in the Cottage Room. It was remembered as being a very dark and cold place, and they also mentioned both boys and girls having to do P.E. out on the road.

" I started school at The Cottage Room with a big log fire in the main part, freezing cold in the small class room. My teacher was Mrs.Cole who had a nasty habit of rapping your knuckles with a ruler if you didn't sit up straight. I remember her knocking over the blackboard and easle in temper because the Headteacher Miss Isherwood asked her to move it. It was obstructing the light to the main classroom. It was very dark in there. I think the lighting was by oil lamps."

(Eileen Farr nee Altree)

"It suited Mrs Cole to have her blackboard at one particular end of the room opposite the window with the children between the light and the board. This was in Miss Isherwood's light so she asked Mrs Cole to move it. Mrs Cole objected and the pupils were listening silently waiting for the argument to finish. One face was red with anger and the other white with temper"

(Mrs Sylvia James nee Howard)

Cabinet Room, Downing Street

3rd September 1939

"I am speaking to you from the Cabinet Room of 10 Downing Street. This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final note stating that unless we heard from them by 11'o clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland a state of war would exist between us. I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received and that consequently this country is at war with Germany."

(Prime Minister Chamberlain, speaking on BBC Radio)



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The Kings Study, Buckingham Palace 3rd September 1939

"This is perhaps the most fateful hour of our history. Once again the Empire is to confront the bondage of fear and fight for liberty and justice. It is for this high purpose that I now call my people at home and across the seas who will make our cause their own. I ask them to stand calm and firm and united in this time of trial."

(The Kings speech delivered to every home in Britain)



School Log Book 18th September 1939

A new girl 5 years of age admitted today. 47 now on the register.

School Admission Book 18th September 1939

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Travers Eileen	12.8.34	The Blainey	John Travers

Education Committee Minutes 26th October 1939

The Executive Officer reported that the re-building of the school was nearing completion and asked for instructions as to a formal opening of the buildings.

RESOLVED That there be an official opening of the rebuilt school and that the following members of the committee be specially requested to attend. The selection of date and time to be left to the Chairman in consultation with the Director of Education and the Executive Officer viz:-

The Chairman
Mr. J. J. S. Powell
Mr. W. J. Bray
Mr. J. Lewis



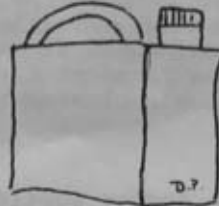
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School Log Book

31st October 1939

The six children who are conveyed to school by car are all absent as the driver has been unable to obtain petrol owing to war petrol rationing.



Education Committee Minutes

27th November 1939

Mr. J.J.S.Powell reported that the offices at the re-built school required considerable repairs, the estimated cost of which was £80 and suggested that the school should be re-occupied as from the 4th December and the repairs to the offices carried out as soon as possible, the formal ceremony to be left until such repairs are completed.

School Log Book

1st December 1939

School will be closed on Monday as the furniture etc is to be moved up to the new building erected since the fire in March 1938.

"We watched with excitement the New School being built, having to pass everyday and note the progress. Then the grand opening and the lovely new tables and chairs for the infants class (a lovely warm honey colour, probably pine,) and the warmth of the whole school with hot pipes and huge radiators. The bliss of dry coats after a soaking getting to school, and a cloakroom with real wash basins and a peg all to myself (what a luxury)."

(Eileen Farr..nee Atree)

It is interesting to note that 50 years on we still have the same pipes, radiators and boiler. Unfortunately the system is not as efficient as it was then and the boiler has been condemned. We now await for money to be made available for its replacement.

School Log Book

5th December 1939

School re-opened today in the new school.



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Education Committee Minutes

20th December 1939

The Director of Education reported that the re-built school premises were occupied as from 4th December 1939.

In connection with the Teachers Dwelling House Mr. J.J.S.Powell proposed, Mr. W.J.Bray seconded and it was resolved that the rent of the Teachers Dwelling House be fixed at £15 per annum - plus rates instead of £13 16s 8d per annum inclusive as formerly.

From conversations with the former pupils it seems that the cane was used with some frequency if ink was spilt on the new carpets. One day a girl aged 13 was filling her ink pot and she spilt ink on the carpet. Miss Isherwood was furious and she got out the cane. The girl was called out and put across Miss Isherwood's knee. She broke the cane over the girls bottom.

"At 11 years we were allowed to write with ink pen. The ink was in powder form and was mixed with water in a jug. It was a senior pupil's job to fill the ink wells in the desks once a week, and woe betide anyone who spilled ink on the lovely new wooden floor or carpets. We had a habit of shaking excess ink from the nib on to the floor"

(Eileen Farr nee Altree)



School Log Book

30th January 1940

Received instructions from the Correspondent that the school is to close until Monday next owing to the severe weather conditions.

School Log Book

7th February 1940

With consent of the Chairman of Managers the morning session ended at 11.45 and afternoon session commenced at 12.45 and school closed at 3 pm as the Headteacher and a scholar had to attend an inquest on Beryl Howard who was drowned in the brook on her way to school on Monday.



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"I shall never forget my classmate Beryl Howard being drowned in the river. She sat by me, a small girl with a fringe. She was handicapped in some way. I think the tips of her fingers on the right hand were missing. She fell from a bridge going home from school into the swollen river. She was taking a short cut home because her father had promised her sweets. She was with a girl called Jessie Cole, who was commended at the inquest because she took a stick to measure the water in the river and decided it was too deep for her to rescue poor Beryl. This small girl walked down from St. Margarets to school, truly amazing when you think about it."

(Eileen Farr nee Altree)

Education Committee Minutes

6th March 1940

A letter dated 12th January was read from the Head Teacher agreeing to the increase in the rent for the Teachers Dwelling House but asking that the Committee would bear half the costs of the rates.

RESOLVED That the Head Teacher be informed that the Committee are unable to accede to her request.

"When we had air raid practices Miss Isherwood would blow a whistle and each older child would take a younger child and run over into our special places in the hedges and fields belonging to Firs Farm. We would stay there until the air raid was over and the whistle was blown again."

(Mrs Nancy McCall nee Price)



"During the war years we carried gas masks and practised hiding in an underground shelter, and in a deep dingle by the Cottage Room. I walked to school down the fields, over the river bridge, up the other side and down the road - a journey of over a half an hour, in all weathers. I remember walking to school one winter on top of deep snow, with drifts over the hedges, and the trees cracking off under the weight of the frozen ice. My highlight was the baked potato Miss Isherwood cooked for our dinner. We each took a potato which was cooked in the teacher's home kitchen by her daily help. Our usual lunch was sandwiches, mostly jam because food was rationed and in short supply."

(Eileen Farr nee Altree)



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School Log Book

14th May 1940

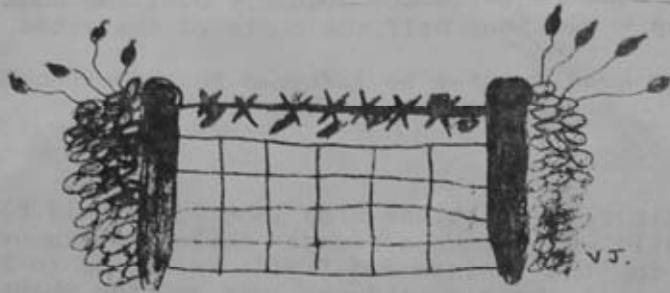
School re-opened today- Tuesday - by order of the Government - all holidays are cancelled. Only 26 children attended.

School Log Book

16th May 1940

As the holiday arranged was now over all children at school. Absentees made excuse they did not know they had to attend. This was untrue.

Children during the war years were also able to make a valuable contribution to the war effort. As well as their gas masks the children at Michaelchurch were also encouraged to bring into school foxglove seeds which were sent away for processing into medicine, wool off the barbed wire fences for salvage and straw and rosehips.



School Log Book

31st May 1940

Mrs Cole left school today for the duration of the war as she is taking up nursing on advice from Mr. Lewis Chairman of Managers.

"The school must have been brand new when I arrived - there was a small room and the big room where the dreaded Miss Isherwood reigned supreme!. I lived a long way from the school, at Lower Llanon, Urishay, and I am never likely to forget the long walk every morning through the fields of Kefn Kest, down the banks and over the river Bridge below the farm nearest the school where the Powell family lived. There was no transport of any kind in those days - just a few older children from other farms who were supposed to keep an eye on the little ones. My father had died during the snows and cold of 1939 so our family was in crisis. Nevertheless I owe a lot to the little school where, as far as I can remember, there were about 33 pupils."

(V Rose Woodger)



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Building and Equipment Sub-Committee Minutes 6th July 1940

That the tender of Messrs W.A.Greening and Sons, which amounted to £106 7s 3d, be accepted for re-conditioning the offices, and repairs to boundary walls, concrete paving and entrance gates.

County Expenditure Sub-Committee Minutes 24th June 1940

A report from the Director of Education that the undermentioned teachers were serving with the Womens Auxiliary Forces.

Mrs D.M.Cole...Michaelchurch Escley Council School.....as from 1/6/40

Building and Equipment Sub-Committee Minutes 18th October 1940

Tenders for repairs have been accepted.

W.A.Greening and Sons.....renewal of WC pans
re-construction of drainage and flushing
 system

£42 14s Od

.....Repairs to boundary walls and walls of
 tank room

£18 6s Od

Very considerable difficulties have been experienced in finding school cleaners at a number of schools owing to the low rate of payment, and it has been necessary to vary the rates of payment in the following cases.

Michaelchurch Escley (weekly) from £13 0s Od to £15 0s Od (1/11/40)

Additional payments have been approved to cleaners for extra work occasioned by the admission of evacuees.

School Log Book 2nd December 1940

Only eight infants at school owing to the prevalence of whooping cough.



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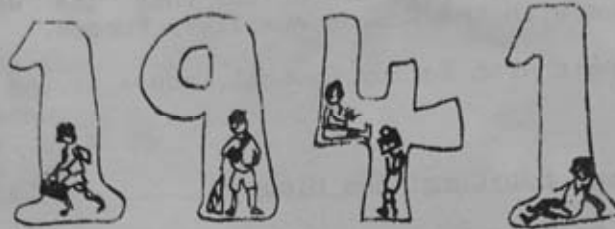
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School Log Book 9th December 1940

59% children at school - whooping cough epidemic.

School Log Book 12th December 1940

School closed by order of the Medical Officer until January 6th.



School Log Book 13th January 1941

School closed until today, 13th January by order of the Medical Officer. Still a number of children absent.

Throughout the months of January and February deep snow caused great difficulty in the village. There are many references to this in the Log Book highlighting the number of days that the school closed, or finished early and the children sent home.

School Log Book 8th May 1941

The Director called at school today arranging for accomodation for evacuees from Liverpool.

School Log Book 12th May 1941

13 children and 2 teachers came into school today from Liverpool.

School Log Book 19th May 1941

There are now 23 evacuees on roll.



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School Admission Book

19th May 1941

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Manning Francis	23. 7.32	The Lodge	E.Hatcher
Shead Henry	17. 3.29	The Bank	E.Cole
Shead William	8. 3.35	The Bank	E.Cole
Burton Joseph	10. 8.31	The Marsh	Millicent Mason
Burton Daniel	4.10.34	The Marsh	Millicent Mason
Holden Richard	29.10.33	The Wilderness	Clara Lewis
Manning Edward		The Wilderness	Clara Lewis
Dutton Joan	24.12.31	Bridge Farm	Grace Powell
Dutton Winnie	26.12.35	Bridge Farm	Grace Powell
Burton Marie	25. 7.27	Lower House	Winifred Stokes
Manning Brigid		The Lodge	Emma Hatcher
Hughes Vera	2. 1.34	Old School	A.E. Johnson
Hughes Joan		Old School	A.E. Johnson
Southern Mary	15. 5.29	Coed Poeth	Elija Howard
Leary Joan	26.12.29	Newfields	Morris
Williams Ellen	5.12.29	Pear Tree Cottage	Alice Powell
Collins Josephine	28. 6.31		
Collins Catherine	17.12.32		

School Admission Book

12th May 1941

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Maker Christopher	29. 9.30	Wern William	E. Jones
Noris Peter	20. 9.30		
Williams Thomas	14. 8.31		
Noris Henry	31.12.32		
Smith John	20. 8.30	Cefn Kest	S. Sanders
Smith Joseph	28. 5.32	Cefn Kest	S. Sanders
Smith Mary		The Forge	M. Davies
Hankin Albert	29. 5.31	The Corner	M. Pritchard
Maker Stephen	20. 9.30	Wern William	E. Jones
Talant Hannah	5. 8.32	The Old School	Mabel Johnson
Talant Teresa	12.12.30	Grove Farm	C. Lewis
Talant Vera	5. 9.34	Grove Farm	C. Lewis

The discrepancy between the number of evacuees on roll on the 19th May and the Admission Book was due to 7 of the children transferring almost immediately to Newton School. These were Joan Leary, Ellen Williams, Josephine Collins, Catherine Collins, Peter Noris, Henry Noris and Thomas Williams.

"I do not recall much about the evacuees, except that they spoke a different dialect from us, and some had head lice and scabies."



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We tried to locate our evacuees by writing a letter to the Liverpool Echo and having a piece on the Billy Butler "Where are You Now?" programme on BBC Radio Merseyside. Unfortunately we did not hear from any of them but we did get letters from Bootle evacuees who were sent to villages near us.



" I was evacuated at the age of 7 in June 1941 after the May Blitz. We were bombed for 8 nights on the run. Other children and I were transported from Lime Street Station to Hereford, then to a large hall. We were tired and sad having to leave our families and home town. People were at the hall waiting for us to arrive. These people were to become our foster parents. I was very lucky to be chosen by the Harding family. They looked after me very well and treated me like one of their own. My most treasured memories was watching the farmers dipping their sheep and thrashing the hay. My foster parents took me to see some lovely places. I recall Hereford, Builth Wells and Hay-on-Wye. which I grew to love in the 2 years I was there."

(Mr J.Garrett)

"I was sent with my brother Donald to your area. We stayed for four years with the late Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard at their home in Newton. I seem to remember it was called Upper Court and Lower Court. We spent happy times there and were sad to hear they had passed on. The Pritchards were very good to us and wanted us to stay after the war but that was not possible. We are also very grateful to all of you in the area for making us welcome and looking after us."

(G.R.Moffatt)

School Log Book

5th June 1941

School reopened (after Whitsun holiday) 3 evacuees and one local child admitted. Miss Joyce (Bootle) absent owing to illness.

School Admission Book

5th June 1941

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Carlin Mary		Old House	G.Christopher
McNully Maureen	31. 7.32	Old House	G.Christopher
McNully Aileen		Old House	G.Christopher
Yeomans Peter	30. 7.36	Upper House	Elwyn Yeomans



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School Log Book 2nd July 1941

Three evacuees taken home today. Mother came to school for them.

Reference to the Admission Book shows these children to be Hannah, Theresa and Vera Talant

School Log Book 7th July 1941

Two private evacuees admitted from London today.

School Admission Book 7th July 1941

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Dossett Donald	18.11.34	The Mill	Thomas Henry
Dossett Dorothy	1.11.35	The Mill	Thomas Henry

School Log Book 25th August 1941

School reopened (it had been closed since 11th July) 4 local children absent and 3 evacuees. 2 evacuees returned to Bottle during holidays.

School Log Book 26th September 1941

Received instructions from Correspondent that the school is to close next week to allow the children to pick potatoes.

School Log Book 7th October 1941

A girl admitted - unofficial evacuee - aged 7.

School Admission Book 7th October 1941

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Shotter Veronica	10. 6.34	The Gate, Urishay	



The History of Ewyas Lacy

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13th November 1941

School Log Book

School closes tomorrow as building is being used for distribution of ration books.

2nd December 1941

School Admission Book

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Parent/Guardian
Hughes Vincent	2. 8.32	The Grove	Mr. Lewis

19th December 1941

School Log Book

School closes today for the Christmas holiday to reopen on Wednesday Jan 7th. A party is being held for local and evacuee children.

1942

January 1942

Once again January proved to be a month of heavy snows with many entries in the log book referring to closures and poor attendance.

"When Miss Isherwood took over Michaelchurch school she inherited an unruly group of the pupils due to the lack of discipline by the previous head teacher. When attempting to give Jim Price the cane for some mis-conduct, he snatched the cane and broke it across his knee. Miss Isherwood then sent Geoffrey Cooper to cut a suitable cane out of the hedge. When Geoffrey returned with it he was told he had taken too long about it and was the first to feel the new cane. Although Miss Isherwood was very strict I don't think any of us resented it in later life. The cane was used in deserving cases. She did have her hands teaching all 7 to 14 year olds without any misbehaviour".

(Jim Davies)



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School Log Book

3rd July 1942

School closes today for 3 weeks to enable children to help with hay making.

"I have much to thank Michaelchurch School for, especially the teachers. I think Miss Isherwood equipped each one of us with a thirst for learning, and a love of books. When Fairfield Manor contents were sold she bought many of the books, which I helped unpack and store on top of the cupboard. We were allowed to borrow them if we took great care. I left school at 14 years and stayed home to help with my younger brother. Then I left to train as a State Registered Nurse at the General Hospital, Hereford. I mixed with many people who had perhaps a superior education to me, but Michaelchurch stood me in good stead. I look back with fond, happy memories to my schooldays and with gratitude for my education."

(Eileen Farr nee Aintree)

Admission Register.

The following pupils were attending Michaelchurch School during the period 1938 - 1942 (excluding evacuees).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Admitted</u>	<u>Left</u>
DAVIES James		23. 12. 38
ALTREE Freda		23. 12. 38
PRITCHARD Marjorie		31. 3. 39
HOWARD Sylvia		13. 4. 40
LEWIS Wilfred		21. 12. 39
FRANCIS Colin		4. 8. 39
HOWARD Trevor		5. 7. 40
HOWELLS Jessie		28. 6. 40
CHRISTOPHER Leslie		5. 7. 40
PRICE Phyllis		21. 3. 40
PRITCHARD Henry		10. 4. 41
COLE James		2. 4. 42
CHRISTOPHER Mary		11. 7. 41
PRICE Maud		10. 4. 41
PRICE Eileen		11. 12. 40
JONES Arthur		27. 6. 41
COLE Jessie		26. 9. 41
ALTREE Kenneth		9. 7. 43
POWELL Georgina	4. 35	28. 4. 44
PRICE Nancy	4. 35	26. 9. 41
LEWIS Olive		25. 9. 43
COOPER Donna	4. 35	1. 12. 39
PRITCHARD Cecil		22. 12. 43
GWILLIM Glennis		9. 7. 43
BRIDGES Dennis	4. 36	2. 8. 39

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JONES Lucy	4.36	9. 6.42
GWILLIM Dennis		30. 6.45
PRITCHARD Geoffrey		21. 7.44
HOWARD Beryl		30. 1.40
YEOMANS Phyllis		6. 4.44
LEWIS Mary		11.12.40
PRICE Jack	4.37	17. 4.46
WEST Thomas	5.37	22. 7.38
DAVIES Doreen	12.37	15. 9.44
POWELL Regina Alma	25. 4.38	31. 3.47
ALTREE Eileen Nora	25. 4.38	20.12.46
WATKINS Ivy	8. 6.38	5.12.48
COOPER Ralph	3. 4.39	1. 12.39
WILLIAMS John	3. 4.39	13. 4.49
STOKES Winnie	8. 4.39	20.12.46
TRAVERS Olive	3. 4.39	31. 3.47
LEWIS Violet	3. 4.39	14. 8.45
PRICE Dennis Arthur	17. 4.39	13. 4.49
GREENOW Oliver	17. 4.39	20.12.46
GREENOW Daisy	17. 4.39	16.12.41
SIRRIL Iris	17. 4.39	21.12.39
TRAVERS Mary Francis	26. 4.39	10.10.41
MAPP Vernon	3. 7.39	28. 6.40
MAPP Cyril	3. 7.39	8.12.44
MAPP Ray	3. 7.39	8.12.44
MAPP Molly	3. 7.39	9. 7.43
JONES Kenneth	11. 9.39	21.12.39
PREECE John	11. 9.39	31. 3.47
TRAVERS Eileen	18. 9.39	15. 7.49
POWELL George Nazeby	1. 4.40	19. 7.46
TRAVERS Doris	1. 4.40	10.10.41
PRICE Henry John	2. 4.40	16. 7.48
POWELL Lorimer	10. 6.40	19.12.41
DAVIES Geoffrey	2. 9.40	19. 2.46
MAPP Iris	2. 9.40	18.12.44
WHITTAL Derek	13. 1.41	29. 3.45
EVANS Ernest George	25. 3.41	9. 4.41
ALTREE Muriel Winifred	7. 4.41	15. 7.47
PRITCHARD Rose Violet	21. 4.41	16. 7.47
TRAVERS Leslie John	21. 4.41	20.12.51
TRAVERS Jean Gladys	21. 4.41	10.10.41
WILLIAMS Manon	21. 4.41	25. 3.51
YEOMANS Peter	5. 6.41	3. 3.46
POWELL Dorothy	8. 9.41	1. 6.45
GREENOW Joy Margaret	14. 4.42	20.12.50
HAMER David	27. 4.42	26. 2.43
TRAVERS Rhoda Mary	19.10.42	25. 5.51

ewyas lacy



study group

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Observations:

None