



Hunslet Moor

A school through time



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HUNSLET MOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL 2022

Hunslet Moor – A school through time

This work is a look at the history of a school that serves the community of West Hunslet and how it has changed over its 150 year history. It is the story of one school and its evolution over that 150 years, through three sites, a number of refurbishments and annexes. I have presented it with context about life in Leeds, and in particular Hunslet, through the years and important changes within the education system.

Hunslet Moor School is at the very top of Hunslet now and thanks to the modern geography of the area is cut off from the main part of Hunslet. It has even been asked of myself and colleagues why we are called Hunslet Moor when in fact we are in Beeston. It should be noted that the area we are in, officially West Hunslet was very much a part of Hunslet before the coming of the motorway in the 1970s. The motorway cut right across the middle of Hunslet Moor, drastically reducing the size of the moor and restricting access from East to West Hunslet

I have received a huge amount of help in my research from current and ex pupils, staff and Head Teachers, many of whom got in touch to share stories and photos via the fantastic group of **Hunslet Lost Memories** on Facebook (Facebook.com. 2022. Hunslet Lost Memories. [online] Available at: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252700481779889/>> [Accessed 5 September 2022].)

Various books and documents have been used and I have referenced my sources where possible.

Pre 20th Century

Origins of Hunslet Moor – In the 18th Century the moor had much of its present shape though somewhat larger, with fields bordering it. The southern end seems to have taken the name Carr Moor as Hunslet Carr developed. The moor stretched from the Carr to Hunslet Hall. Beyond that lay “Lady Ingram’s lands”. In 1878, the moor comprised 88 acres. When the Brandling estates were sold in 1862, Mr. Brandling, owner of Middleton Colliery, was said to be owner of seven eighths of the reputed manor of Hunslet (Calvert, 1956, p 45)

Hunslet Moor was originally common land. Between 1868 and 1874, the Middleton Estate and Colliery Co. Ltd. acquired the Manor of Hunslet, which included the Moor. In 1878, Leeds Corporation purchased the Moor from the company. Until 1953, the Moor was covered in boiler ash. By 1932 it featured tennis courts, bowling greens, a putting green, old men's shelters, and a fountain that impressed Keith Waterhouse. There was also a bandstand. In 1888, Hunslet feast moved there from Penny Hill and it took place annually until 1953. At that point, the Council converted the ash surface to formal grassland and flower beds, so from 1954 the feast was moved to a car park by the side of Hunslet RLFC's ground at Parkside. In 1812 the world's first commercial steam locomotives crossed Hunslet Moor, carrying coal from Middleton colliery to a staithe [landing area for loading coal from trains onto ships] on the river Aire.

(Tebbutt, 2022)

1784 Sunday Schools opened for the first time in Leeds (The Thoresby Society, 2022)

1790 – 1837 Sunday Schools existed as the primary source of education for children. There were seven Sunday Schools in Hunslet by 1837 with 354 teachers and 2166 scholars. St Mary’s Sunday school was the main one with 55 teachers and 666 scholars.

Before 1870, many children’s only formal education was provided by volunteer teachers trained by the Anglican and Nonconformist groups. These schools were viewed as a means of both providing education for social betterment and inculcating religious belief and moral values in children of the poorer classes. Many volunteers taught the children to write on a Sunday and then provided reading lessons on weekday evenings. The majority of attendees were aged eight to fourteen

(Calvert, 1956, p 45)

This town remark'd for ages past
Where wickedness doth reign;
An antidote is found at last,
It's honour to regain.

This very Sunday-school do doubt,
If but conducted well;
Will help to bring this change about,
'As knowledge doth excel'.

Soon as I enter'd at the door,
I stood amaz'd to find,
So many children of the poor,
Instructed in their mind.

Eight hundred scholars' gather'd here,
And taught to read that word;
Which teaches youth to love and fear,
The ever-blessed Lord.

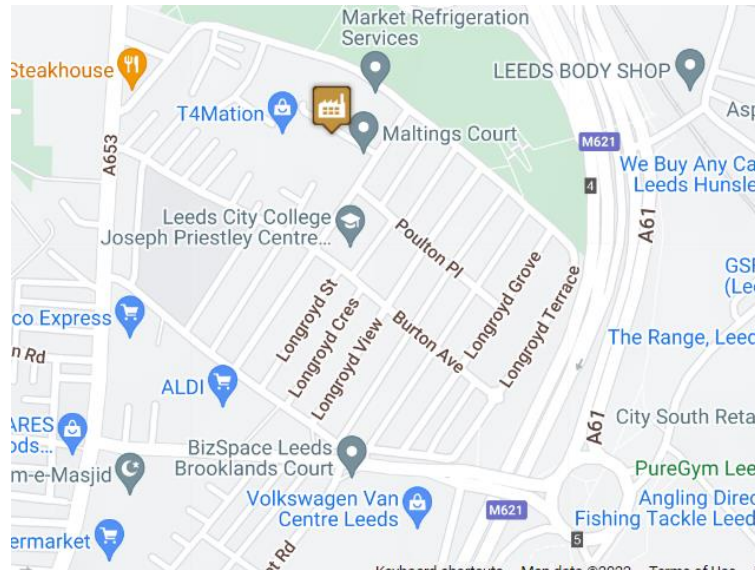
How clean and decent now they look,
In dress and morals too;
Scholars attentive to their book
Good fruits already show.

How many thousands in their youth,
At Sunday-schools receive,
Instruction from the book of truth,
Which guides them whilst they live.

Hence wicked parents, mov'd to hear,
Their children sing and pray,
Must sure begin to think and fear
An awful judgement day.

A greater blessing never came,
To Hunslet, since it stood;
O may it all our minds inflame,
And turn our hearts to God.

John Yewdell 1827
Written after a visit to one of Hunslet's Sunday Schools



1791 Burton Lodge was built by the Busk family. It became the main home of Robert Busk (1768-1835). He had a flax mill at the top of Hunslet Moor, near what is now Maltings Court (see map above). This was 1 of 15 flax Mills located across Hunslet at that time. The Lodge was split into two houses and renamed Burton House in the mid-19th Century.

1812 Matthew Murray's steam trains begin running on Middleton Railway (The Thoresby Society, 2022)

1843 By now, Hunslet had 18 Dame and Infants school (349 infants). [Dame Schools were similar in nature to a child minder, it was more about taking care of the children rather than educating them]. There were 13 private academies (450 pupils) and 3 'Public Schools' with 335 places. (Burt, 2022, p150)

1844 The new Hunslet National School opened at the junction of Balm Road and Church Street. - A National school was a school founded in 19th century England and Wales by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. These schools provided elementary education, in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, to the children of the poor. (National school (England and Wales) - Wikipedia, 2022) Many National Schools evolved into modern church schools.

It is estimated that by the middle of the 19th Century 2/3 of all children between 5-15 attended Sunday schools. They were taught basic maths, English and Christianity

1847 Burton House is now owned by Richard Dobson, a maltster. His company Richard Dobson and Sons was located on Brewery Yard which is no longer there but was located roughly behind numbers 19-21 Burton Row (Leodis, 2022)

1848 Burton House is now owned by Franco Macedo and Co, wine merchants. His son Joachim Antonio De Macedo was born in the house, he went on to write a guide book to Portugal and became the Portuguese Vice Consul.

1859 Two schools opened on Sussex Street and Gordon Road

1861 A new school opened near the top of Goodman Street with four classrooms (2 male, 2 female) with separate entrances, a reading room, library and lecture hall.

1862 A Code of Regulations also known as Lowe's Code was introduced. This was a system of education introduced by Robert Lowe (pictured) (1811-1892) who had been appointed Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education in 1859. He sought to promote the teaching of the three Rs (reading writing and arithmetic) and payments to schools and teachers became dependent on children's results on government-administered exams.



The Commission proposed the endorsement of a Payment by Results approach because of the poor level of teaching of "the Three R's" (reading, writing, and arithmetic). This deficiency posed a large problem for elementary schooling, as these rudimentary skills are the foundations of more advanced studies. What is perhaps most surprising to a contemporary reader is the assertion that the reason for the deficiency is that these skills were the "most unpleasant" duty that teachers were required to undertake. The report argues that if a teacher is not paid directly to teach the Three R's, then they are "bound" to neglect them. (Home - Springer, 2022)

1866 Three new day schools; Zion Primitive Methodist on Lady Pit Lane and schools on Waterloo Road and Jack Lane opened

1868 The parish of St Peter, Hunslet Moor, was formed from that of St Mary, Hunslet, Dec 11th 1868. The church, which occupies a site given by the Lords of the Maor of Hunslet Moor, was erected in 1866-7 by the Leeds Church Extension Society, (Hunslet 1927, 2022)

1870 Leeds School Board established. At this time, Hunslet had 32 schools with 1,210 places.

Catherine Mary Buckton 1826 – 1904 In 1870 the ground-breaking Elementary Education Act gave all children the right to education up to age thirteen. School Boards were set up in all the major cities with the urgent task of providing places for all the children who had never had regular schooling – some twenty thousand in Leeds alone. Elections were held for membership of the Board, and for the first time women were allowed to stand for public office. There was bitter competition in Leeds for the fifteen seats, split by religious, political and class loyalties. Two women boldly entered the fray as Liberal candidates. Neither won a place, but for Catherine Mary Buckton it was the start of her long fight for educational opportunity and child welfare. (Bradford, 2022)

The Education Act of 1870, introduced by W.E. Forster, established a national system of education and made local authorities responsible for ensuring that all children attended a school. It encouraged voluntary schools to expand and decreed that state schools should be built to fill any gaps in provision. These would be known as 'board schools' as they were to be provided by locally elected school boards financed by local rates and government grants.

(Burt, 2022, p202)

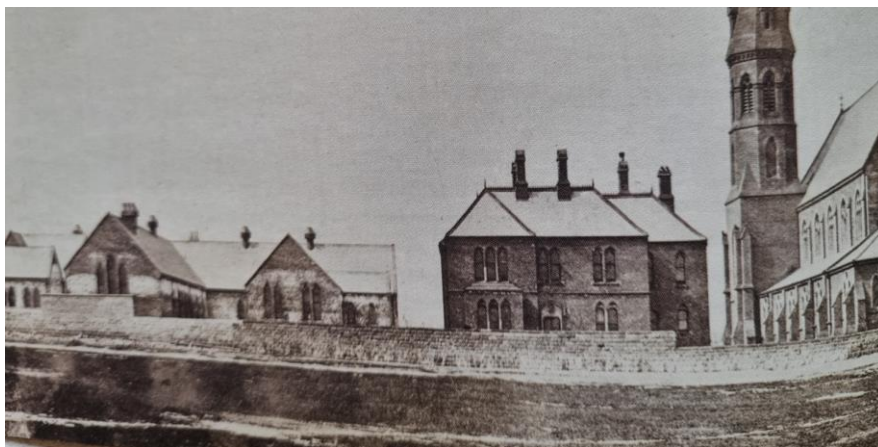


Photo from 1873 showing St Peter's Church, vicarage and school. St Peter's School is the building on the far left. (Photo courtesy of Thoresby Society (Burt, 2022, p206))

During the late 19th Century Leeds School board opened a number of new schools across Hunslet to fulfil the requirements of the education Act that all children would have a school place. These included:

- 1873 Bewerley Street (first school built by the board)
- 1874 Hunslet Carr, South Accommodation Road Jack Lane
- 1883 Dewsbury Road
- 1885 Hunslet Lane
- 1895 Hunslet Hall Road

16th June 1873 New St Peter's School opened at a cost of £2900. This was next to St Peter's Church and was on the site of the modern St Peter's Court on the junction of Dewsbury Road and Moor Road. – **This was the first purpose built school for our community.**

1877 - 1900 Children across the six years of elementary school had to reach established 'standards' of education. Once a pupil had achieved the six standards there was no further education available. School boards began to encourage children to stay beyond the six standards and Higher Grade Schools were established – the first type of secondary education.

1877 Standards and results for schoolchildren is mentioned in the Leeds School Board report.

'The last report of the Committee of Council shows the average passes throughout the country

Reading 87.09%

Writing 79.42%

Maths (arithmetic) 70.15%

In the schools of the Board the average pass is

Reading 92%

Writing 86%

Maths (arithmetic) 79%

1879 Hunslet Moor was purchased from the Lords of the manor, Middleton Colliery. It was 68 acres and cost £6360. An Act of Parliament was obtained to extinguish the rights of commoners in 1879 (**Calvert, 1956, p 44**)

It remained a depressing fact of life that even at this late date many children still roamed the streets without adequate footwear and hundreds remained hungry and ill-cared for. In 1884 a scheme of providing 'penny dinners' started in five centres across Leeds. The provision expanded the following year with dinners being made available to poor children in Hunslet at St Peter's. Some children did not even have boots or stockings on their feet or arrived at school without breakfast.

(Burt, 2022, p203)

1891 Southern Higher Grade school established at Bewerely School

1891 The Elementary Education Act made provision for government funding to begin funding elementary education and prohibit fee paying by parents.

In the 1890s a fine coach with gleaming brass fittings and a liveried coachman with a cockade was a familiar daily sight on the road through Headingley, taking Alf Cooke the printer from his mansion at Weetwood Hall down to his works in Hunslet. He believed in living in style.

Alf Cooke 1842-1902 Alf Cooke (he was never Alfred) was born in Hunslet, the son of a shopkeeper in Meadow Lane with a small stationery business. His upbringing was strict, maybe the source of his later determination and toughness. When he was 24 he married and set himself up in a small shop in Hunslet Lane, where he sold newspapers and stationery and did some letterpress printing. Ambitious to progress, he installed his first lithographic press a year later, making colour illustrations possible. He had the bright idea of printing picture almanacs for local shopkeepers to give their customers at Christmas. They were a sell-out. His business prospered and by the early 1870s he was able to expand into new premises near Crown Point Bridge. Around the same time he and his wife Annie moved from Hunslet to the more pleasant surroundings of Cottage Road, Headingley, with their five young children – five more were to follow. All went well until a terrible fire in 1880 gutted his works, leaving him with nothing. Undeterred, he borrowed enough money to buy another site in Hunslet Road and build anew. He proudly decorated the new entrance hall with plants and cages of songbirds.

1894 In Aug, it was announced 'that after the school holidays all children at our schools will, from now on, enjoy free tuition.'

Henry Carr 1894-1970 Leeds artist Henry Carr lived through two world wars, in WW1 as a young soldier facing the horrors of the Western Front in France, in WW2 as an official war artist commissioned to record life on the home front and on the battlefields. His war paintings were widely exhibited and in the 1950s and 60s helped to establish him as the artist of choice for portraits of the great and the good, though he never lost his sympathetic eye for everyday people and their lives.

Born in Hunslet in 1894, he came from everyday roots. His father 'Matt' Carr was a clerk, a leading light in the Hunslet rugby and cricket teams – he used to take young Henry to matches, then on to a Music Hall and billiards. The family moved to Roundhay when Henry was six but kept their close Hunslet connections. He went to Leeds Modern School, then at eighteen to Leeds School of Art, bent on being an artist. He was doing well when war was declared in 1914 and life was totally overturned. (Bradford, 2022)

Early 20th Century and the First World War

Until Leeds Corporations Act of 1924 when it was included in the township of Leeds, Hunslet was a separate township. It stretched from Christ Church Meadow Lane for 2 miles south towards Thwaitegate, on the west by Holbeck. Woodhouse Hill completed the triangle. Industry included flax mills, chemicals, woollen manufacturers, several potteries, glass works, iron foundries etc., some of them wedged between houses, shops and pubs.

(Clarke and Wilson, p1)

1901 The Education Act 1901 raised the school leaving age to 12

1902 The Education Act 1902 abolished school boards and established Council run local education authorities to take over management of schools. Leeds City Council established Leeds Education.



1902 Southern Higher Grade School – a new building was built on Fairford Ave to replace the one at Bewerley School. It had separate entrances for boys and girls, the main entrances were both on Fairford Ave roughly where the modern Hunslet Moor School car parks are.



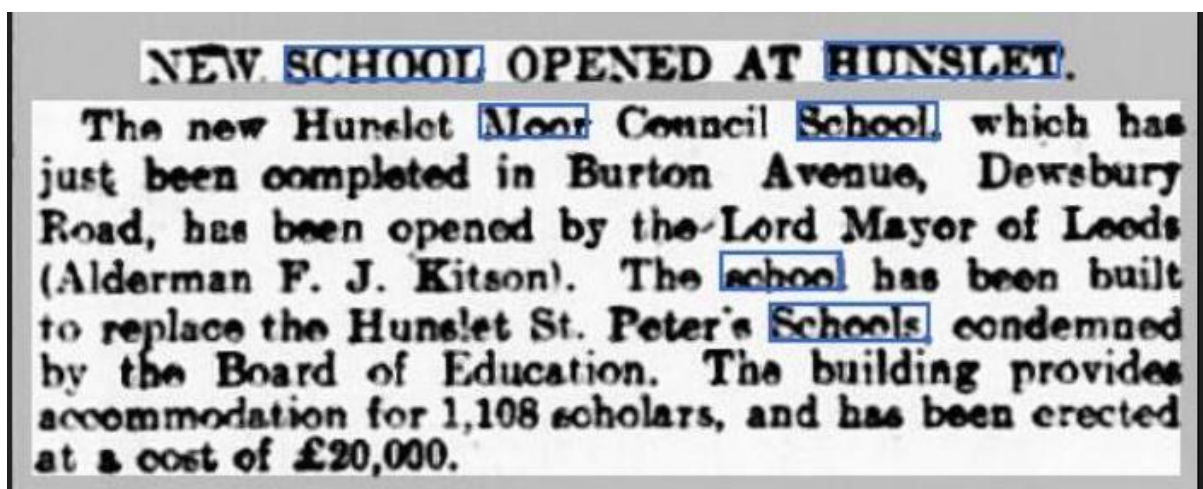
1904 Southern Higher Grade School renamed Cockburn High School in honour of George Cockburn (pictured), a former head of the Leeds School Board. Cockburn High School was one of only three state provided secondary schools in Leeds.

Arthur Greenwood, an ex-cabinet minister and Labour leader, was born at Hunslet in 1880. He was educated at Cockburn High School and Leeds University. He was made freeman of Leeds in 1930, and was MP for Wakefield at the time of his death on June 9th, 1954, age 74. (Calvert, 1956, p 52)

1908 St Peter's School was condemned during an audit by Leeds City Council. The inspectors felt that St Peter's was 'totally inadequate', having holes in the sash window sides in all four classrooms 'which let in icy cold draughts'. A new school was commissioned on Burton Ave.



23rd August 1909 – Hunslet Moor School opened on Burton Ave. Boys and girls were schooled separately.
The school had a roll of 268



Announcement of the school opening from the Yorkshire Evening Post

John Fred Whatmoor was the new Head teacher of the boys' school

Teaching staff (boys)–
Louise Turner
Elizabeth Campbell
Mary Ellam
A Smith
Ernest Elerek (?)
George Holt

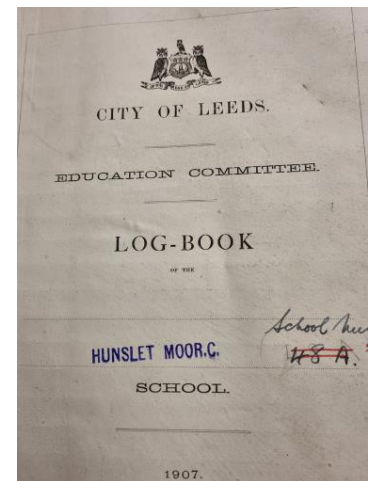
Average attendance during the first week was 274.4.
The school had no lunch provision so pupils attended mornings and afternoons separately.

13th 14th September 1909 School was closed for Hunslet Feast and this practice continued until at least the end of the Second World War

When Hunslet Moor School opened in 1909, the boys school Head Teacher began to keep a daily log. It was at the discretion of the Head what information was entered into this log, it tended to be information about staff absences but could be anything. The boys school log from 1909 – 1955 is kept at the National Archives in Morley. I was able to look through this document and have pulled out some of the most interesting entries which paint a picture of life in Hunslet and at school at the time. From this point on all entries written in blue are direct quotes from that document. Where possible I have tried to provide some context around events at that time that are referenced in the log book.

4th October 1909 Have begun badly with attendance this morning, 15 boys being absent chiefly on a plea of illness. Have commenced a series of Monday morning addresses on moral subjects. Last Monday the subject was 'the golden rule' and this morning 'playing the game'.

5th October 1909 I wrote to the Secretary of the Leeds Education Committee pointing out the serious effect on the attendance of the muddy state of Hunslet Moor, especially in the winter months.



20th October 1909 3 pupils absent with Diphtheria (Diphtheria is a highly contagious bacterial disease that affects the nose and throat. It is spread through direct contact and was very common at the end of the 19th/beginning of the 20th Century. It was often fatal in children. Diphtheria is now rare in the UK because of vaccination programmes that began in 1940 when the death rate from diphtheria was high. Cases fell from 46,281 (2,480 deaths) in 1940, to 37 cases (6 deaths) in 1957. (Vaccination: a history of saving lives, 2022))

4th November 1909 The schemes of work have been approved by the Education Committee and HMI (?)

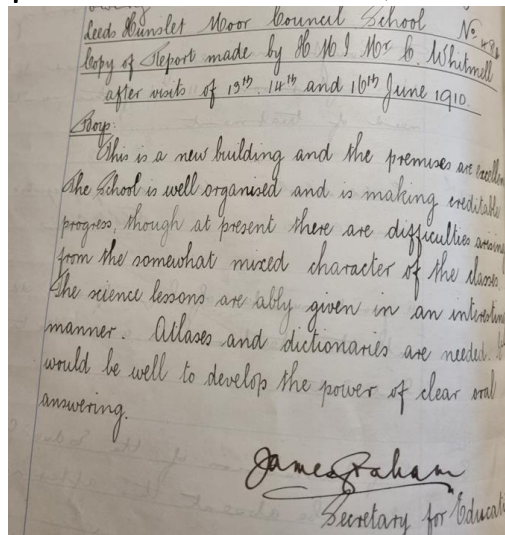
18th November 1909 I have started taking organized games in place of two of the ordinary drill lessons.

21st December 1909 Prize presentation by Councilor Bradley. The prizes were those earned by the children at the old St Peter's school.

25th April 1910 Swimming arrangements – boys of IV V and VI attend Hunslet baths on Mondays at 2pm in alternate weeks in sections of no more than 40 boys.

9th May 1910 Mr. Elerek (?) and Mr. Smith are taking the boys on Sat mornings for rambles in the country with a view to nature study.

First school inspection carried out on 13th, 14th and 16th June 1910



"This is a new building and the premises are excellent. The school is well organized and is making creditable progress, though at present there are difficulties arising from the somewhat mixed character of the classes.

The science lessons are ably given in an interesting manner. Atlases and dictionaries are needed. It would be well to develop the power of clear oral answering."

19th July 1910 dictionaries and atlases supplied.

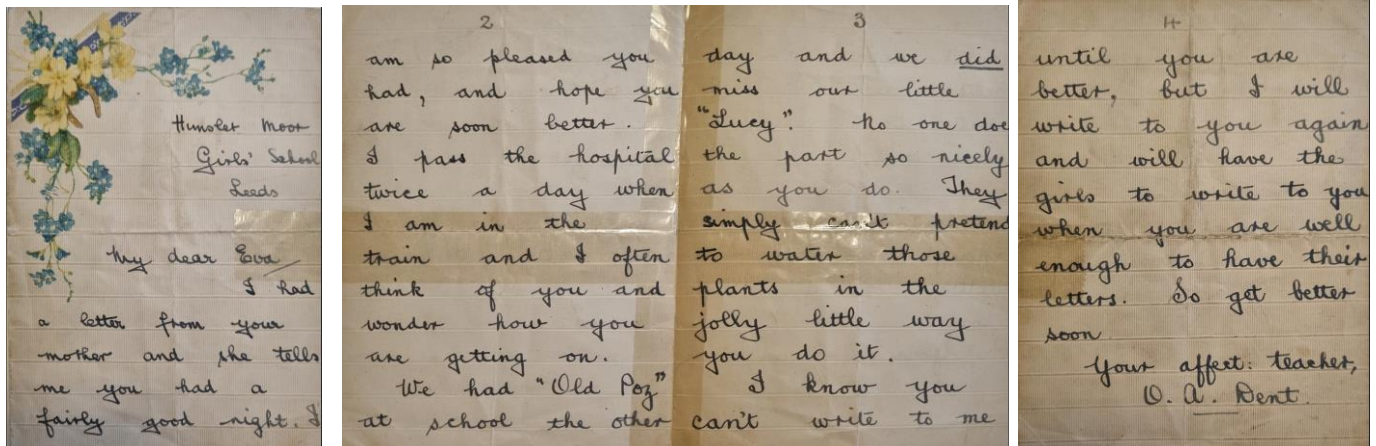
21st December 1910 Santa Claus toys distributed to the poorest children

27th February 1911 by instruction of the Education Committee the boys in VI and VII attended Cockburn High School to see a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

13th April 1911 attendance is affected by an outbreak of mumps

3rd July 1911 30 boys went on a trip to Masham in order to view the source of the River Aire

27th July 1911 38 boys visited Kirkstall Abbey



This is a letter sent by a Hunslet Moor Girls School teacher Miss Dent to one of her pupils in about 1911. Eva was in hospital suffering from Diphtheria and sadly died. She went to Hunslet Moor with her sisters Florence and Rose.

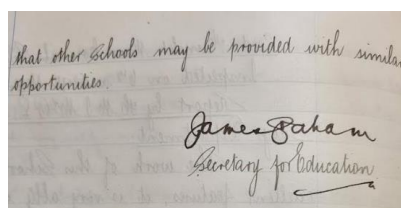
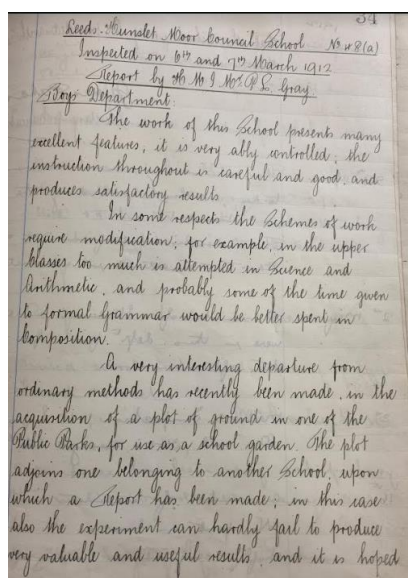


Cockburn High School class 1912

1912 Cockburn High School – Junior section now providing education, preparing children for the 4 year secondary course (fee paying). It provided 'Grammar school' education for boys and girls. Scholarships were available for working class children.

January 1912 tomorrow we are commencing gardening operations on a plot, which has been granted to us in Cross Flatts Park. We have selected 14 boys who will attend on Saturday mornings together with 2-3 teachers.

School inspection carried out on 6th and 7th March 1912



The work of the school presents many excellent features, it is very ably controlled; the instruction throughout is careful and good and produces satisfactory results.

In some respects, the schemes of work require modification; for example, in the upper classes too much is attempted in Science and arithmetic, and probably some of the time given to formal grammar should be given to would be better spent in composition.

A very interesting departure from ordinary methods has recently been made in the acquisition of a plot of ground in one of the public parks, for use as a school garden. The plot adjoins one belonging to another school, upon which a report has been made, in this case also the experiment can hardly fail to produce very valuable and useful results, and it is hoped that other schools may be provided with similar opportunities.

September 14th 1912 the story of Captain Scott was told to all of the scholars this afternoon. (Captain Robert Falcon Scott had died on his way back from an expedition to reach the South Pole on 29th March 1912)

The mother of Captain Oates, the "Very Gallant Gentleman" of Scott's tragic, but glorious expedition, was a daughter of Mr. Joshua Buckton, whose engineering works stood on the boundary of Hunslet in Meadow Road (Calvert, 1956, p 56)

8th November 1912 I have successfully examined all arithmetic and writing books this week.

Leonora Cohen 1873-1978 On Saturday 1 February 1913 an elegantly dressed woman followed a group of school boys into the Jewel House at the Tower of London. The beefeaters assumed she was a teacher until she suddenly pulled an iron bar from her coat and flung it over the boys' heads, smashing a glass showcase. She was forced to the ground and arrested. Wrapped around the bar was a piece of paper declaring: "This is my protest against the Government's treachery to the working women of Great Britain." Her name was Leonora Cohen, a housewife from Leeds. She made headline news.

Leonora was born in 1873 in Hunslet. Her father, Canova Throp, a sculptor, died of TB when she was only 5 years old, and his widow Jane struggled to bring up their three children alone, working as a seamstress. Leonora herself had TB as a child, and was taught mostly at home. (Bradford, 2022)

26th May 1913 On Saturday last, 70 scholars and all the staff spent an enjoyable day at Bolton Abbey, the Wharfe Valley and Barden Tower. The vicar of Bolton Abbey gave an interesting account of the ruins, which we greatly appreciated.

17th July 1913 On our visit to the school garden, we were much disappointed to find that some of the produce as peas, strawberries, lettuce, turnips had been stolen and much wantonly trampled on.

29th July 1913 This afternoon about 200 of the parents of our scholars visited the school to inspect the work of their children during the year, and to listen to the singing and violin playing. They showed great interest in the school.

3rd September 1914 The 57 boys from the infants department seem an intelligent class of boys. They have read very nicely from an unfamiliar book. The words were well known, punctuation being reflected in most cases.

4th September 1914 first monthly contribution to the local war relief - £5 10 3½

2nd September 1915 A large number of boys are absent at a pantomime performance for soldiers children this afternoon.

9th March 1916 Today 13 boys have begun War Saving Stamp Cards and 8 have opened War Saving Certificate Books, the total deposited being £10 11 0.



12th June 1916 No Whitsuntide holiday owing to the war. Many children are absent however, on holiday.

6th July 1916 I am informed that 2nd Lieutenant Liversidge, formally one of our assistants here, was killed in action last Saturday July 1st during the advance. (This date was the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and this is most likely where Lieutenant Liversidge was killed). It is estimated that in the Battle of the Somme virtually every street in Leeds lost at least one man (**The Thoresby Society, 2022**)

On 1st July 1916 at around 7.30 in the morning, whistles were blown to signal the start of what would be the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army. 'Pals' from towns and cities across Britain and Ireland, who had volunteered together only months earlier, would rise from their trenches and walk slowly towards the German front-line entrenched along a 15-mile stretch of northern France. By the end of the day, 20,000 British, Canadian and Irish men and boys would never again see home, and a further 40,000 would lie maimed and injured.

(**The Battle of the Somme 1916, 2022**)

3rd April 1917 Owing to the shortage of labour, no arrangement can be made this year for the swimming instructions.

1917 A 'Holiday Centre' was opened in Hunslet Moor to provide activities for the poor children of the area. It was open for 3 weeks at a cost of £110. Hundreds of children attended – many had to be turned away. It was for children 'who, but for this interesting centre, would be spending their holidays on the kerb-stones of sunbaked, dirty streets.'

5th September 1917 Sergeant Albert Smith formally assistant here, on leave from France for the purpose of obtaining his commission called into school this noon.

Throughout the early part of the 20th Century school closed at 3.30 during the winter months (Oct – Jan) and 4pm the rest of the year.

27th June 1918 the influenza outbreak is very apparent in school in the school attendance.

This was the 'Spanish flu', so-called because Spain, which remained neutral during the First World War, did not censor news of the epidemic whereas participating nations did. Historians and scientists disagree on the origins of the virus, which may have first emerged on a farm in Kansas, USA. Whatever its origins, it spread across the globe, beginning its journey in early March 1918 and ending with the last recorded infection around March 1920. Throughout this period, one in three people on the planet – 500 million – were infected, and one fifth them died.[7] In the UK, a quarter of the British population contracted the virus and one estimate places the national death toll at 228,000.[8] Mortality figures are, however, likely to be underestimates: many deaths will not have been recorded as influenza-related but as pneumonia, tuberculosis, bronchitis or even suicide, all of which were documented secondary complications.[9] The arrival of the virus in England and Wales can be dated around mid-June 1918 and by the end of July, it had diminished. In mid-October, it returned, and this "second peak", far more deadly than the first, lasted until the end of the year, only to be followed by a third wave between February and May 1919.

(A Forgotten History through a Rowntree Lens - The Rowntree Society, 2022)

There were roughly 2000 deaths of influenza in Leeds during 1918-1919

30th October 1918 [Owing to the influenza outbreak in the city, the school is closed on Monday.](#)

1918 School leaving age increased to 14

Between the Wars

14th January 1919 [The schoolwork is badly harmed by these continual absences](#)

During the winter of 1918/19 we were in the grip of the Spanish Flu epidemic. There were around about 228,000 deaths in Yorkshire.

The 1918 influenza pandemic, commonly known by the misnomer Spanish flu or as the Great Influenza epidemic, was an exceptionally deadly global influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus. The earliest documented case was March 1918 in Kansas, United States, with further cases recorded in France, Germany and the United Kingdom in April. Two years later, nearly a third of the global population, or an estimated 500 million people, had been infected in four successive waves. Estimates of deaths range from 17 million to 50 million,[6] and possibly as high as 100 million, making it the one of the deadliest pandemics in human history after the Black Death bubonic plague of 1346–1353.

(Spanish flu - Wikipedia, 2022)

14th February 1919 [Attendance is being affected by the severe cold of the last few weeks. Children are absent owing to the influenza and colds frequently.](#)

1919 Burton House sold to Leeds City Council and opened as an annex of Hunslet Moor school

17th July 1919 [School closed this \(Thurs\) noon for peace celebration holiday. We reopen on Monday as normal.](#) (although World War 1 officially ended in November 1918, negotiations for the terms of peace were still ongoing throughout 1919. Once 'true peace' was in sight a Peace Committee was formed to plan a National celebration. Saturday 19th July 1919 was declared a bank holiday)

18th July 1919 [Tea and sports to celebrate peace. Children with teachers and parents had a very enjoyable time.](#)

On the morning of the 19th, thousands gathered in London, having arrived overnight. It was a spectacle never seen before, with nearly 15,000 troops taking part in the victory parade, led by Allied commanders Pershing (head of the US Expeditionary Force), Foch (Allied supreme commander) and Haig (British commander in chief), who saluted fallen comrades. Bands played, and the central parks of London hosted performances and entertained the crowds.

That morning, King George V issued a message: 'To these, the sick and wounded who cannot take part in the festival of victory, I send out greetings and bid them good cheer, assuring them that the wounds and scars so honourable in themselves, inspire in the hearts of their fellow countrymen the warmest feelings of gratitude and respect.'

A monument to those killed and wounded was unveiled in Whitehall, to mark the end point of the victory parade, soon to be decorated with flower wreaths. Architect Sir Edwin Lutyens (Gazette issue 30607) was commissioned by Lloyd George at the start of the month to design the monument, and had just 2 weeks to create a piece befitting of the memory of the fallen. Though it was a temporary wood and plaster construction, another made from Portland stone was to replace it in 1920, which still stands today.

Though the main spectacle was in London, other celebrations organised by local authorities and communities took place in cities, towns and villages across the country.

(This month in history: Peace Day, July 1919 | The G..., 2022)

16th September 1919 Miss Forbes was taken ill yesterday afternoon and is unable to come to school this morning.

1st October 1919 Calling at Miss Forbes home. I learned that she passed away peacefully on Monday evening 29th September

2nd October 1919 Miss Ellam and I have official leave to attend the funeral of Miss Forbes

27th November 1919 Mr. G Stott, just returned from India, has been demobilized and has resumed duty today.

16th June 1920 School closed this afternoon on account of the gymkhana to be held at Becketts Park on behalf of the teachers' charities.

8th April 1921 Observations on the eclipse of the sun are being made by all classes this morning, the children assembling in the playground at intervals and most of them having smoked pieces of glass.

28th April 1921 At 3 o Clock this afternoon we commence our preliminary sports competitions by a series of pillow fights.

8th July 1921 Laurie Jowett has gained a junior city scholarship. He will attend the Cockburn Secondary School.

(Hunslet Moor Primary School) became the base for Leeds Holiday Centre, which by 1921 regularly provided three weeks of educational activities for poor children during the long summer break. Great support was shown for this initiative and on 16th August, nearly 300 children were invited to a garden party hosted by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Mr. Albert Braithwaite, at his home 'Springwood' on Oakwood lane. As they left each child was given sweets and other gifts. By 1925, the number had risen to 515 pupils.

(Burt, 2022, p256)

22nd December 1921 I close my connection as Head teacher of this school tonight, after my 12 years of service.

New Head Teacher **John Hulse Atha** took over as Head Teacher of the boys' school 10th January 1922



28th February 1922 School closed all day. Shrove Tuesday. The morning's holiday was on account of the Royal Wedding. (This was the wedding of Princess Mary, only daughter of George v and Queen Mary and Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood)

26th April 1922 A party of 25 boys accompanied by Mr. Holt went to the Albert Hall to see a series of pictures illustrating 'Australia'.

1922 First Children's' Day held in Leeds (The Thoresby Society, 2022)

24th May 1922 Empire Day – Reference was made to this day at morning assembly and patriotic hymns were sung.

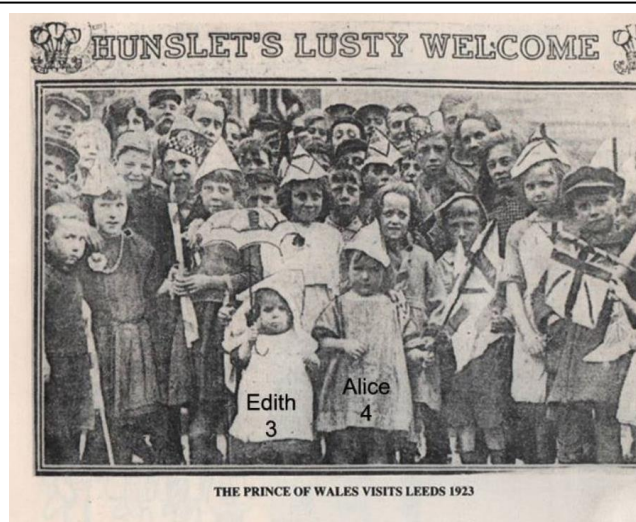
...it was not until after the death of Queen Victoria, who died on 22 January 1901, that Empire Day was first celebrated. The first 'Empire Day' took place on 24th May 1902, the Queen's birthday. Although not officially recognised as an annual event until 1916, many schools across the British Empire were celebrating it before then.

Each Empire Day, millions of school children from all walks of life across the length and breadth of the British Empire would typically salute the union flag and sing patriotic songs like Jerusalem and God Save the Queen. They would hear inspirational speeches and listen to tales of 'daring do' from across the Empire, stories that included such heroes as Clive of India, Wolfe of Québec and 'Chinese Gordon' of Khartoum. However, of course the real highlight of the day for the children was that they were let of school early in order to take part in the thousands of marches, maypole dances, concerts and parties that celebrated the event.

(Empire Day, 2022)

30th September 1922 Mr. Marsden and Mr. Goulding accompanied 31 boys on a ramble to Osmandthorpe, Whitkirk. Many species of winged and other fruits were gathered and brought for lesson illustrations.

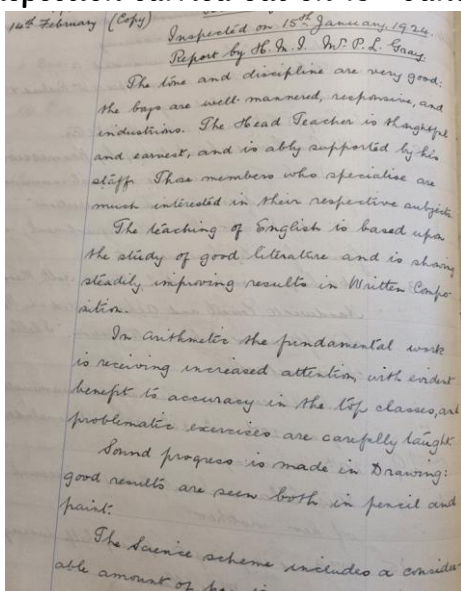
In 1923, Prince Edward, Prince of Wales visited parts of Yorkshire including Leeds and Bradford.



June 1923 'Over 20,000 children waited on Hunslet Moor to see the Prince. They waved frantically as the car went by and many tried to patriotically sing the National Anthem, but the sound was not impressive.' (Burt, 2022, p256)

25th June 1923 Rev George Ayne visited the school this afternoon and for forty minutes gave a most interesting description of South Africa, its climate features and people.

School inspection carried out on 15th January 1924



The tone and discipline are very good. The boys are well mannered, responsive and industrious. The Head Teacher is thoughtful and earnest and is ably supported by his staff. Those members who specialize are much interested in their respective subjects...

Excursions are made to various places of interest among which are local factories.

Singing is very carefully and well taught and steady attempts to help the boys appreciate good music are made.



24th May 1924 47 boys of the upper standards accompanied by 5 of the staff made an excursion to Liverpool. Permission had been obtained to view the Cunard liner 'Caronia'. (RMS Caronia was a Cunard Line transatlantic steam ocean liner. She was launched in 1904 and scrapped in 1932. In World War I, she was first an armed

merchant cruiser (AMC) and then a troop ship. (RMS Caronia (1904) - Wikipedia, 2022)

22nd September 1924 The Lord and Lady Mayoress visited the school, touring the whole of the departments. They spent a portion of their time in this department seeing each class at work. They specifically asked to hear the singing and complemented the staff upon the high standards of work. Each spoke to the assembled school. They departed with hearty cheers from the boys.

1925 Leeds City Council provided grants for under 5s but there was a proposal to exclude these children from every elementary school. It failed.



This photo shows Hunslet schoolboys building a wooden replica of 'Salamanca' the train designed by Matthew Murray and built at Middleton Railway, which is on the Hunslet Moor School badge. (1926)

Middleton Railway - In 1808 John Blenkinsop was appointed colliery manager at Middleton. The Napoleonic wars had caused the price of horse feed to rise and the Brandlings were considering selling the colliery business because of the resulting high costs of transporting the coal, so Blenkinsop devised a solution. He designed and patented the rack and pinion method of traction.

In 1795 Matthew Murray (1765-1826) had helped establish Fenton, Murray and Wood's Round Foundry in Water Lane, Holbeck to make textile machinery, steam engines and locomotives. Blenkinsop approached the firm to requisition a steam locomotive to be designed by Matthew Murray. The rails were made at Hunslet Foundry at Carr Moor Side (later Denisons), whose owners were Gotthard and Salt. On 24th June 1812 a public trial of what became the world's first commercially viable steam railway took place. The railway carried coal from Middleton pit down Old Run Road (hence The Engine pub, Engine Place, and Old Run Road), via Hunslet Moor, to barges on the canal in central Leeds.

Two locomotives, "Salamanca" (named after the battle three weeks earlier), and "Prince Regent" went into regular service on the 12th August. George Stephenson visited in 1813 (12 years before the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened) and his first locomotive followed Murray's design closely.

(Tebbutt, 2022)

1927 There are extensive chemical, glass bottle, spinning, woolen cloth, blanket and linen works, Messrs. Bryant and May Limited are erecting a factory here. The neighbourhood abounds with coal, and the iron trade is extensively carried on in all its branches, including the manufacture of steel, locomotive and other engine building, and boiler, machine and tool making (Hunslet 1927, 2022)

School inspection carried out on 15th and 16th February 1928

The Head Teacher influences the school in a quiet and conscientious manner and the staff work loyally with him in promoting the welfare of the school. The boys are orderly, bright an intelligent managing their 'team' system of internal government with success.

The teachers work hard on conventional lines, but are beginning to realise the real use of practical instruction, the efficient and economical management of equipment and the need for regular exercise in private study.

21st December 1928 Mr. Atha leaves

New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. C Greaves** takes over on 8th January 1929 (unfortunately Mr. Greaves portion of the logbook was completed in a pale blue pen and is almost impossible to read after almost 100 years. I have not included any of his entries.)

1929 Richard Hoggart – author of 'The Uses of Literacy'

An author supported by the Board of Guardians. His mother died when Richard was 8 and the children were split up. Richard went to live in Newport Street with his Grandma in an 'overcrowded Hunslet Cottage which had one pretension, the only mains connected bathroom in the street. He was given a scholarship to Cockburn High School in 1929. Richard did well in his exams at 16 and entered for the Higher School Certificate at 18. Leeds City Council gave him a scholarship to Leeds University.

(Burt, 2022, p256)



This is my dad Jim (James) McCarthy. He was born in 1922 and went to Hunslet Moor School, although he didn't really enjoy it back then.

Jan Johnson pupil

1930 The slum clearance progress in Leeds area was introduced in 1930, and intensified in 1933, which was carried on until war broke out in September 1939. In that period a sweep of undesirable property was made from Grape Street to Glasshouse Street, Waterloo Road, Jack Lane, Low Road etc. (Calvert, 1956, p 59)

Call it Hunsbeck. It exists no more, it has been demolished; it had been a slum. Bernard Shaw called it a black stain on the face of the British Empire. Built as homes for labourers in the middle nineteenth century these brick rabbit hutches had been studded up, squat and meagre, back to back, row upon row along criss-crossing cobblestoned miles of nasty, sunless narrow streets. Many had been gas lit, most had owned no bathrooms, kitchens or lavatories, few had had more than one cold water tap, all had had cramped small rooms, none had known privacy, these shelters and dormitories had been squashed between and around and up and down their places of work. Factories which had manufactured iron goods, steel goods, wooden goods, lead goods, rubber goods; engine-makers, string-makers, paper-makers, nail-makers; cotton mills, wool mills, saw mills; freight yards, gas works coal mines, slag heaps, potteries, warehouses and tall, tall, thick, brick chimneys.

The whole district had been south of a fishless, dark yellow river and, to its east and west, there had been, for recreation, two open cinder-strewn places known as moors, while through the warrens and the workplaces had run railway lines, alleys, canals and cobbled, tram-tracked roads. Dotted here and there had been shops, pubs, pawnbrokers, a lunatic asylum, a few schools and churches, a dance hall, a billiard hall, the police and fire stations, the public wash-house, the picture houses, the public library and, in the shade of the pithead, the pride of the area, its gallant, fighting professional rugby club.

(O'Toole, 1992, p38)

18th December 1931 Mr. Greaves leaves

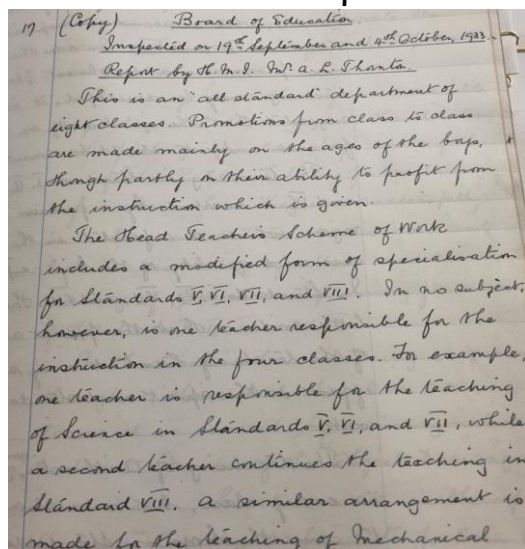
New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. G Downend** takes over on 5th January 1932

14th July 1932 School closed afternoon today half-day holiday for the Yorkshire Show

15th July 1932 The school cricket team won the Meadow Dairy Shield by defeating the boys of Beeston St Luke's match played at Parkside.

22nd May 1933 33 boys with Mr. Hardwick left this morning to spend a week at the Leeds School Camp Ilkley.

School inspection carried out on 19th September and 4th October 1933



This is an 'all standard' department of eight classes. Promotions from class to class are made mainly on the ages of the boys, though partly on their ability to profit from the instruction, which is given.

The Head Teacher's scheme of work includes a modified form of specialisation in standards V VI VII and VIII. In no subject however, is the teacher responsible for the instruction in the four classes.

The formal exercises seen in the physical training of the upper classes are somewhat mechanically carried out, and even in the other activities, the boys lacked vitality and confidence. The presence of two classes in the hall makes indoor work with gymnastics practically impossible.

29th November 1934 School closed today for the wedding of HRH the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina



30th October 1935 Boys who were ten years of age or under at the date of immunization for diphtheria were today tested to ascertain if the treatment has been effective. 61 boys seen.

Willis Edward Hall (6 April 1929 – 7 March 2005) – Hunslet Moor pupil was an English playwright and radio, television and film writer who drew on his working-class roots in Leeds for much of his writing. Willis formed an extremely prolific partnership with his life-long friend Keith Waterhouse producing over 250 works. He

wrote plays such as *Billy Liar*, *The Long and the Short and the Tall*, and *Celebration*; the screenplays for *Whistle Down the Wind*, *A Kind of Loving* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Torn Curtain*; and television programmes including *Budgie*, *Worzel Gummidge* and *Minder*. His passion for musical theatre led to a string of hits, including *Wind in the Willows*, *The Card*, and George Stiles' and Anthony Drewe's *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure*.

(Willis Hall - Wikipedia, 2022)



Map of the area from 1936 showing Cockburn High School, Hunslet Moor Schools and Burton House

8th July 1936 The whole of standard I, (41 boys) left school at 10am with their teacher, to visit Roundhay Park (children's day). They expect to return at 4.30

The street in which we lived was a row of seven back-to-back houses. We had a garden opposite separated by a dirt road. Each house had a garden, except my Aunt and Uncles who lived in the top house and they had a big yard where they kept the carts and coal, and stables for the horses.

We only had a living room which incorporated an open fire grate and coal burning oven, a sink and setpot for boiling the washing in. The stairs were open up to a large and a small bedroom. We had gaslights and a small two-burner gas ring, which fitted on top of the setpot when it was not being used for the washing.

We had to go up the street, then up two ginnels to reach the lavatories, which were communal; one or more families used them. We took it in turns to scrub them out each week. The middens were also in the same block; the midden was where all our ashes and waste were thrown, a hole in the wall with a wooden door. We didn't have dustbins back then so each week the midden men came and backed a wagon pulled by a horse, one man climbed into the middle and shoveled out the refuse into the wagon. On a very hot day this must have been an awful job as bones, vegetable peelings and all household waste was thrown straight into the midden, not wrapped, just tipped from the bucket kept for your waste.

Carrie Stocks (Stocks. 1988. p1)

11th November 1936 Armistice Day was kept with appropriate ceremony, an address, suitable hymns and the observance of the two minutes silence.

22nd April 1937 Discussed arrangements for the school coronation celebrations.

I was told that Peter O Toole was an ex pupil. An old man turned up at the school in 2000 when I was Head Teacher. He was an ex pupil called Ernest Hawksworth. He had done well in life and had a successful business making canoe equipment. He had been brought to school by a driver, and he wanted to make a substantial donation to the school. He told me that he was in the same class as Peter O Toole for a short while in the late 1930s. Ernest died a few years after that. He did not strike me as the type to make it up.

Julia Norton-Foulger-Foulger Head teacher 1999-2004

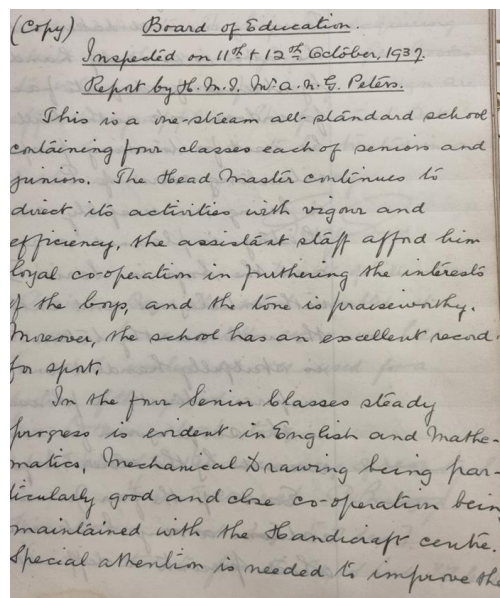


11th May 1937 School closed at 4pm today for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

13th May 1937 Coronation Celebrations. Today the boys of this department were entertained at a local cinema, and then served with tea in school.

20th October 1937 School closed pm on the occasion of the Royal visit to Leeds (this was part of a three day visit to Yorkshire by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

School inspection carried out on 11th and 12th October 1937



This is a one-stream all standard school containing four classes each of juniors and seniors The Head Teacher continues to direct its activities with vigor and efficiency, the assistant staff afford him loyal co-operation in furthering the interests of the boys, and the tone is praiseworthy, moreover the school has an excellent record for sport.

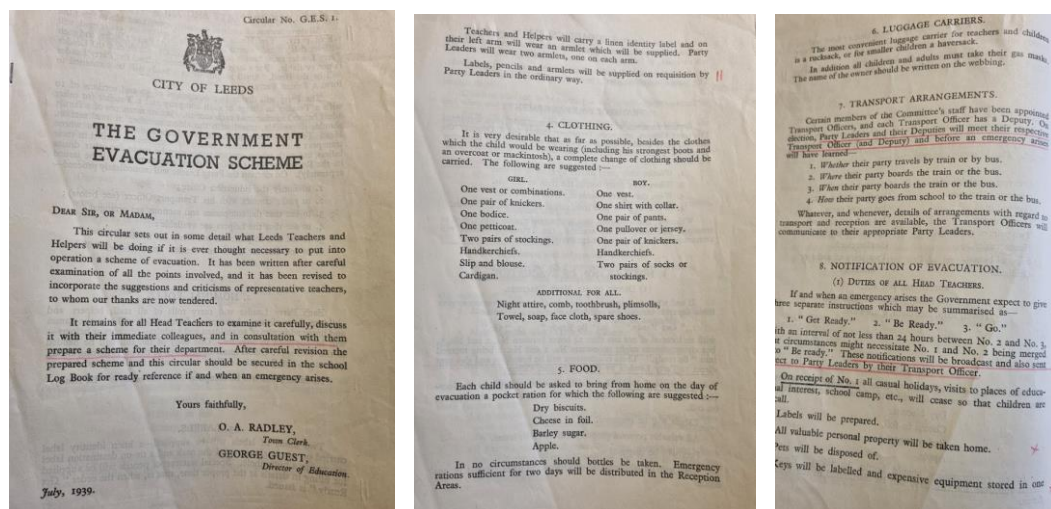
29th September 1938 National Emergency – Today, gas masks sufficient in number for every boy on roll (251) were delivered at school. The measuring of faces and the fitting of the masks was undertaken by the staff, and completed by Friday 30th September

4th April 1939 Evacuation of Children – in case of national emergency. In connection with this subject, a meeting of the parents of all departments here was held in the infant department at 4.30pm. There was a very good attendance. I addressed the parents.

5th July 1939 Boys leaving school at Midsummer paid a visit to receive instruction on the use of a library (Dewsbury Road Library)

12th July 1939 Staff meeting concerning evacuation arrangements. Discussion of circular G.E.S (Government Evacuation Scheme) we have received.

Picture of the first few pages of the Government Evacuation Scheme document sent to schools



26th August 1939 International crisis – school reopened Saturday. Children to be evacuated called back to school.

28th August 1939 full rehearsal of evacuation. Children met at 10am, equipment examined, children returned home. School again 1.30pm

1939 My mother Phyllis Broadhead attended the original school on Burton Ave between 1936 and 1948, with her twin sister Kathleen and elder sister Doreen. They were at the school for the whole of their school life. Mum recalls the nursery teacher was Miss Gibson and can remember being put into cots for a sleep in the afternoon. She thinks nursery was from 3-5 years and then onto infants and beyond. In September 1939, all 3 sisters were evacuated to Lincolnshire, but returned to Hunslet Moor after about 6 months.

The Headmistress was Miss Hall, Miss Jolly taught English, arithmetic and geography; Miss Hurst history and music; Miss Wilson poetry; Mrs Guy for art; Mrs Newman taught PT and Miss Heath for cookery and housekeeping. She remembers this class being held in a purpose built room over the nursery and had to cross the girls' schoolyard to get to it. Boys and girls playgrounds were separate in those days.

She was in the netball team from 11 to 15 years old and played against local school teams such as Hunslet Carr, Low Road and Middleton. Hockey practise was held on the old Cockburn field off Middleton Grove, Dewsbury Road and they caught the tram there and back.

She can remember a sticky resin being put on the windows to prevent them shattering in case of bombing in the war; this made the classrooms very dark.

Phyllis Ripley

World War Two

My dad did not wait to be called up to serve in the forces; he and many of our neighbours volunteered and we saw very little of him and them for the duration of the war.

Meanwhile we had blackouts. It was not nice after dark, all lights had to be extinguished. Heavy curtains hung at windows and doors. When we did go to, we used torch light....At school we 'dug for victory'. We all went in a crocodile carrying spades, forks, buckets or pushing wheel-barrows to the school allotments, which were down behind the Regal Cinema. We dug and planted vegetables, which we tended with care. When they were ready to eat, they were sold and the money we collected was for the War effort.

My Aunt and all her friends worked for the Red Cross, knitting, sewing, holding bring-and-buy sales, beetledrives and holding concerts in Church halls. Me? Well I made bookmarks, lavender bags from odds and ends, knitted kettle holders and dish cloths. These I sold. I also collected at weekends from about twelve streets. Each house gave cash each week, which went to the Red Cross to help soldiers, sailors and airmen who had been wounded, and at the end of the war I was sent a certificate from King George VI.

At school, we had a gas mask test and we all had to file out into the air raid shelter and put on our gas masks. This also happened when the sirens went during school hours. Streets had large, galvanized tanks called static water tanks. These were covered with heavy mesh but were ready for use if any fires broke out.

Carrie Stocks (Stocks, 1988, p7)

1st September 1939 General evacuation ordered. Children to be evacuated assembled at 10am, nominal rolls made out. Children then dismissed til 1.30pm when they reassembled for departures from school at 2.20pm
Party Letter J Train no L22
Departure at 3.10pm by train from L.N.E.R goods station, destination Lincolnshire, Caistor area.

My mum was a pupil here born 1927 I presume it must have been early 1930. Had 2 come home 4 lunch to cross Monkton Street n back 2 school , she hated the walk....maiden name Margaret Templeton (aka Peggy) She was evacuated ww2 to Hunslet Hall Rd school, they were all sent to Beeston railway station whilst there. Mum went to live with farming family in Caister lincs. The family had a young baby, I have some details somewhere if can find their address. The grandad who lived nearby wouldn't let mum in the house she had to sit outside recalls he was very frightening. Mum didn't like it there, sometime after her mum n dad went to visit and my mum refused to stay came home with them. She then went to work in a pub age 13/14 .

Josie Baldwin

13th December 1939 [School closed for instruction from 1st September. Reopened today 10am for the purpose of enrolling names of children who wish to resume attendance at school on Friday 15th December](#)

1940 During World War II Secondary pupils from Cockburn High School were evacuated to Knaresborough

2nd April 1940 Air Raid practice taken at 2pm

It was the middle of the May of 1940 when I joined my sister, mother and father in Hunsbeck, and the days were getting longer...As rats nests go, 15 Peartree Lane, Hunsbeck, hadn't been all that rough. Nothing could have been done about its size, the dirtiness of the little spot had been soon scrubbed away... never, have I seen so many little houses piled in rows together, or anything so black filthy from industrial waste and soot. All the men, women and children of Hunsbeck had had to fight to be clean.

Our short street had abutted onto a wasteland of demolished houses at whose end a railway line which had also served as northern most boundary to our district. A few doors to our right stood a permanently locked and shuttered small warehouse, fenced with iron-spiked tall slats of timber. Opposite, and a bit further on, was a pub which stood in a street of shops. There lived a former policeman, an acquaintance of my father. Behind the warehouse lived a granger, a building-site foreman, a friendly Irishman, an honorary kinsman, call him Podge. To our left, one could either left, right, left again and right to a main road and a tram-stop, or carry straight on into a quaint, three sided quadrangle where the local bookie had lived and functioned.

(O'Toole, 1992, p42)

1st June 1940 School open this Saturday, morning and afternoon, 9am to 4pm, for the purpose of registering names of children who wish to be evacuated.

12th July 1940 War Salvage Aluminum – In response to the government request, scholars brought numerous articles of aluminum, including 50 pans, 32 kettle, 20 frying pans and steamers etc.

22nd July 1940 In view of the international situation, the normal school holiday, July and August, has been modified. This school remains open, while the staff is to have 2 weeks holiday per member during the period Mon 22nd July to Friday 30th August.

13th January 1941 Incendiary bomb – two members of the local A.F.S. came to school and gave a talk and demonstration in methods of dealing with incendiary bombs.

17th January 1941 All windows in the department and all the glass in cupboards, doors etc. have been covered with textile fabric, as a protection against blast from enemy bombs.

With my gas-mask bobbing against my hip, I prowled the area noting the incidence of sandbags and static water tanks was much higher even than in town. The reason of course was the high concentration of factories and mills in Hunslet, most of which had gone over to war work. Factory walls were now topped with coiled barbed wire, and the tall gates of some of them were guarded, to my great satisfaction, by rifle-bearing soldiers in sentry boxes. The Halton Moor Cycling Club (Keith on his bike) noting these developments, militarised itself into the 1st Mobile Cadet Corps and regularly patrolled Hunslet in search of spies and unexploded bombs. In fact, much to my disappointment not a single enemy bomber had yet come anywhere near Leeds, although I listened hopefully each night for their ominous drone...The searchlight unit was on Hunslet Moor...At home, there was the novelty of ration books, blackout blinds on the windows, the bucket of water at the ready to put out incendiary bombs, Churchill and Lord Haw-Haw on the radio and officious neighbours in the regalia of our air raid wardens patrolling the streets shouting, 'put that light out!'

Keith Waterhouse 1929-2009

12th February 1941 I left school at 2.50 to attend a meeting at Cockburn High School – business in connection with the use of this school as an Emergency Centre in case of severe bombing.

17th March 1941 Leeds was raided by enemy planes during the night of Friday and Saturday 14th 15th March. No damage was suffered by the staff or buildings here.

In an air raid over Leeds in 1941, a bomb destroyed a few houses in Larchfield Street, Hunslet Road

6th February 1942 In connection with Leeds 'Ark-Royal' week, the sum of £30 was raised in this department and presented to the Leeds Lord Mayors fund.

Leeds decided to adopt the HMS Ark Royal for the city's Warship Week in November 1941. But just days later the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German u-boat in the Mediterranean. Driven by anger and honour the city's residents launched what would prove to be an incredible fundraising effort for a new Ark Royal. Ark Royal Week - which ran from late January 1942 through to early February - raised more than £7.5 million. Contributions ranged from money sent by children to buy nuts and bolts through to donations of £25,000 from businesses to buy Fulmar naval fighter planes which cost £5,000 each. The final total was a staggering £9 million, far surpassing the original target of £3.5 million.

Yorkshire Evening Post January 18th 2021 (Andrew Hutchinson)

13th June 1942 An Emergency Play and Feeding Centre for children of mothers engaged in war work was opened in this school this morning at 8am.

I'm 87 years old now but the farthest back I can remember is when we used to have afternoon naps on these little fold up beds and I remember being in the school play it was the old woman who lived in a shoe I was Mary Mary quite contrary and I had to sing in it and the boys came down from upstairs to watch. My two brothers were among them the headmistress was Miss Hall then I remember. Some of the teachers names that were there then Miss Jolly ; Miss Gill Miss Hurst ; Miss Barker, my favourite subjects were spelling ; geography ;PT gym ; composition xx

I remember my mum giving me a kiss goodbye when she leaned on the bed and it collapsed. She wasn't exactly the most liked person in the room. Also remember Miss Jolly.

Sheila Guthrie and Sandra Bosworth Pupils

14th June 1942 121 boys had their gas masks examined and tested in tear gas this morning.

Later yet, in a school yard somewhere, a group of us, grown-ups and children, all wearing gasmasks, stood in a circle around a tin-hatted, uniformed little black rubber pig with a window that was handling a tear-gas cylinder. We were to test our gas masks. The canister was cracked open, thick white smoke poured out; I stuck my snout in and took a good whiff. Something vital may have perished in my gas mask or else there was a hole in it or it was on upside down but I sucked into my face, eyes, nose and throat a fair billow of tear gas. Like a dog, I howled for hours, vomited, and my eyes burned and wept for days. My mother nursed me with boracic lint and eye lotion. Tear gas only; but we had heard of nerve gas, mustard gas and a gas that smelled of geraniums and was deadly.

O'Toole, 1992, p32)

27th June 1942 At 8.30am an air raid alarm was sounded. There were no children present in this department. Boys who come to breakfast at 8am were in the infant department and were conducted into a shelter the 'all-clear' signal sounded at about 8.45am.

31st August 1942 Mr. Downend leaves
New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. Fretwell** takes over on 1st September 1942

28th July 1943 School closed at 4pm for Midsummer vacation, two days extra holiday being granted for all schools efforts in raising money during 'wings for victory' week.

4th October 1943 Today School Dinner Centre was opened with 130 places for children. Practically all are children of mothers working. A few are accepted on grounds of distance. 10 are seated at each table with a teacher presiding. Dinner arrives at 11.45am

4th August 1944 School closed at noon for midsummer holidays. Mr. A Cox will succeed me as Head Teacher when school reopens. I am transferring to Cowper Street School.

4th August 1944 Mr. Fretwell leaves
New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. A Cox** takes over on 5th September 1944

26th September 1944 80 boys from the senior class visited Cockburn this afternoon to see an exhibition about children of the U.S.A. organized by the American Forces –

allied relations dept. Sergeant Hilmore US Army education officer gave an interesting and vivid address to the children

My uncle, John Best, born 1916 was a pupil at Hunslet Moor school. He fought in WW2 in the Kings Own Light Infantry regiment (KOYLI) He won the Military Medal at the battle of Kohima for bravery. He spent all his working life as a cutter at Montague Burtons.

Barbara Ferguson

The Battle of Kohima – 4th April - 22 June 1944

According to military historian Robert Lyman, the battle "changed the course of the Second World War in Asia". "The Japanese invasion of India, of which the battle of Kohima was a significant part, was [their] first major defeat in the Far East," he told the BBC. But, although it was a turning point, the battle in north-east India never captured the public imagination in the way that D-Day, Waterloo or other battles in Europe and North Africa had. It has often been described as "the forgotten war".

(Kohima: Britain's 'forgotten' battle that changed the course of WWII, 2022)

1944 Education Act provided for the re-classification of schools; primary schools for children up to 11 or 12 years of age; and secondary schools for children over that age. The age for leaving school was risen to 15, to be risen later to 16 (Calvert, 1956, p.37)

10th April 1945 Mr. Heap called to discuss staffing and organization. He mentioned the probability of a reduction in staff owing to a deplorable shortage of teachers throughout the city.



Victory in Europe celebrations in Leeds

8th May 1945 Victory in Europe day. School closed today and the following day for National Holiday.

10th May 1945 School reopened at 9am with a short Service of Thanksgiving.

Everyone was glad when war did end. Parties were held out in the streets. Flags and bunting flew in the breeze, bonfires were lit at night. I remember my sister and her friends taking me to the Town Hall with them. There were thousands of people all dancing and singing. The relief was so great it went on for most of the night and it was breaking dawn as we all started the long walk home, tired but very happy.

Carrie Stocks (Stocks, 1988, p9)



War Memorial that was in Cockburn High School on Fairford Ave. When the school closed it was relocated to the Parkside site.

1946 – 1960



School photo 1946

Miss Blease's class. Brenda Schofield 2nd from right on front row.

I attended Hunslet Moor Infants from 1945 up to leaving 1951 to attend Thoresby High School, after passing my eleven plus exam.

My first memory was the day I started and was given a peg, in the cloakroom, which I seem to remember was a crocodile! In the first year, we had naps in the afternoon, on fold up type camp beds. In the summer, they would be set up in the playground.



Daily, we had a spoon of cod liver oil, followed by a spoon of orange concentrate, to take the taste away. We had small glass bottles of milk during morning break. I hated milk and would try to give mine away, without being caught! I can't remember the name of that first teacher, but can well remember the second! The one on the photo Miss Blease. She was a cruel person and after striking me, over the knuckles, with the sharp side of a ruler, my mother confronted her.

You will notice, on the photograph, we all look rather glum, could be something to do with Miss Blease, along with going through the war years and most of our fathers, away in the army. Another teacher in the infants was Miss Jolly, but I remember very little about her and her class.

I am still in touch with four girls from Hunslet Moor Infants. Two, living in Leeds, I meet monthly, one in Bradford and we phone each other and one, now living in Spain, who has been my best friend, all my life. We are now 82!

Brenda Schofield pupil 1945 – 1951

27th February 1946 A party of 80 scholars from Junior 2 and Junior 3, accompanied by Miss Wigglesworth, Miss Saffman and myself visited the Grand Theatre this afternoon to see a performance of 'Peter Pan'.

2nd May 1947 Mr. Peters HMI and Mr. Lawton HMI visited this morning. Mr. Peters informed me that Mr. Ecclestone HMI and Mr. Thurston HMI would inspect the school during the week commencing 9th June.

15th June 1947 Mr. Ecclestone gave a verbal report, which was very gratifying on his inspection.

I went to Hunslet Moor School from 1942 to 1952 age 5 to 15, infants first then juniors and seniors. Miss Jolly taught me in juniors, she also taught my older sister and one of my Aunties. My Grandma lived on Primrose Lane just below the school. I was in the choir. At playtime, my Uncle used to come and see me on his coal cart being pulled by Billy the big bay horse. Wonderful memories, On Fridays he used to let me go with him on the cart to collect coal money.

Irene Palmer-Woolmer pupil 1942 - 1952

30th June 1947 During the last period in the afternoon, I fell in the school hall and injured my arm (he had a broken scaphoid)

22nd March 1948 An Easter service with appropriate choral and solo vocal music and readings from the Scriptures arranged by Mr. Bean and Mr. Gammish was held for the whole school this afternoon. Several visitors attended including Rev. Trevett.

26th April 1948 School closed at noon for a half-day holiday in celebration of the Silver Wedding of the King and Queen

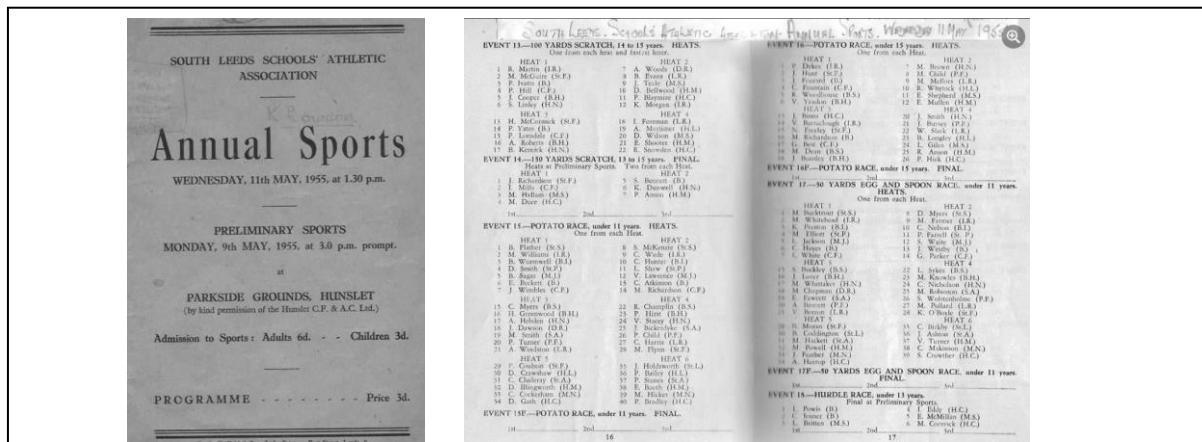
The National Archives at Morley holds a Girls School log book that dates from 1948 – 1957. I have used direct quotes from this document in green.

7th September 1948 Miss Brown and Mrs. Ward appointed (teachers girls school)

12th November 1948 Mr. Dalleycoate left the staff today to join the army. He has done good work with the extra 14+ class, introducing hobby crafts, mainly with the building and flying of model aeroplanes . Boys have been keenly interested.

27th May 1949 School was visited by the Lilliput Marionette Theatre who erected their stage and gave a performance from 5-7 years of 'The Little Mermaid'. A highly skilled and beautiful performance and a very interesting and enjoyable experience.

21st July 1949 68 boys accompanied by Mr. Bramwell and myself attended Roundhay Park for a rehearsal of display to be given on the occasion of the visit of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.



South Leeds Sports Program from 1955

I attended Hunslet Moor from around 1949 and left for work in 1959, going into work at Foxgrove on Dewsbury Road, such a good school. I played in some great teams, in Juniors, intermediates and a very successful senior football team playing on Clayton's sport field, which was like playing at Wembley. I also played cricket and represented school in athletics and massed display on Children's day at Roundhay Park, a good school for sport enjoyed my days at Hunslet Moor. Happy days

Keith Lawrence pupil 1949 - 1959

10th October 1949 We dined in the new canteen for the first time

I attended Hunslet Moor County Primary School until 1951, and I remember how the school meals improved tremendously when the new canteen at the side of Burton House was opened. I also remember the winter snowball fights against the 'opposition' (Cockburn High School)...Happy days

Malcolm Baker pupil



Burton House and the white building which is the newly built Hunslet Moor dinner hall.

I was there until 1955 when I went to Isles Lane Technical College in Holbeck, which later became Park Lane College. I was in the infants and then was marched to the 'big school'. I remember using Burton House and Mrs Rhodes and Miss Brown and Mrs Ward. I was there when they built the separate dining hall. My brother, William (Bill) Thompson was there too. Happy days although I hated the walk across the moor from the Chesneys

Moira Waring pupil

18th October 1949 Mrs. Vallanse and Mrs. Ward took a party of 35 girls to a concert of chamber music at Belgrave Church Hall.

9th May 1950 Miss Harvey (RSPCA) visited the school this afternoon and gave a talk to the older girls on kindness to animals.

28th July 1950 Miss Hall Head Teacher of the girls' school retired (no date known for her appointment)

New Head Teacher girls school **Miss Eleanor M. Smyth** takes over 5th September 1950

In the 40s and early 50s at Hunslet Moor, the boys were separate from the girls. To my mind, Henry Miller was the teacher who stood head and shoulders above the rest. John (Jack) Bramwell was [another teacher then]. He ended up living not far from me in Barwick-in-Elmet. He ended his days in a nursing home in Selby

Malcolm Nicholson pupil 1943-1954

28th July 1950 My own appointment as Head Teacher here concludes today owing to my appointment as Head Teacher at Lower Wortley. I wish to record my gratitude to all the scholars and members of staff who have helped my work here so pleasant.

28th July 1950 Mr. A Cox leaves

New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. Fred Raynor** takes over on 5th September 1950

On 16th August 1950 the Yorkshire Evening Post ran an article entitled 'Festival of Britain for Leeds on Hunslet Moor'. A huge canvas town was created over a three-week period to accommodate the biggest exhibition of its kind ever staged in Britain. The entrance was framed by a brick triple-archway behind which stood an impressive concrete mast resembling a sword with a handle at the base. The enclosure had a transparent top, which was lit up at night. On 11th September R.R.Stokes, the Minister of Works, travelled from London to officially open the show. The site had been chosen because the West Riding was one of the biggest building centres in the country with over 12,000 firms. The event, which featured more than 60 manufacturers, was organized to show how new methods, materials and machines could be used to speed up housing construction and reduce costs.

(Burt, 2022, p272)

5th October 1950 33 senior 4 girls accompanied by Miss Jolly and Miss Smyth visited the Dewsbury Road library. A very helpful talk was given by the chief librarian and the girls changed their library books.

Hunslet Moor Primary/Junior School used Burton House (as it was known then) to house two of its classes. I attended there in 1950 and 1952 aged 8 and 10. I fell down the front steps on one occasion splitting the side of my head open, par for the course in those days. Later as a Cockburn High School pupil, my domestic science lessons were held there. There were tennis courts between the house and the dining rooms.

Kathleen Cairns pupil

9th January 1951 School reopened this morning. The staff reported at the usual time but owing to a coke shortage the children are not attending until Thursday 11th January

I was there 51-57. I remember the afternoon naps in Reception. Junior 2 and Junior 4 girls classes were held in Burton House at that time. Mrs. Prytheck (not sure about the spelling) was a favourite teacher who taught me to knit.

Sue Roberts pupil 1951-1957

6th March 1951 We held our first daffodil show this afternoon. The results were most pleasing. Parents were invited to call in between 4.15 and 5pm to see the display. I felt that useful contacts were made with parents as a result.

14th June 1951 Films were shown to the senior girls and visiting classes at the Housewifery Centre in connection with electrical appliances and their use.

25th October 1951 The school was closed all day as our hall was used as a polling station during parliamentary elections. (general election called by the labour party. Winston Churchill was voted back in as Prime Minister, conservative party)

28th March 1952 20 senior girls went with Miss Jolly and Miss Hall to visit Arthur Harrison's Worsted Mills. The visit was very successful and we appreciate the interest taken in the girls by the members of mill staff.

Oh yes, in the 1950s/60s we had a school bank. Each week we took a small amount of money to school, say 6d (2.5p) or if you were rich, one shilling (5p) this money went into a Yorkshire Penny Bank Book, I'm not sure how it worked, but maybe another ex-pupil will know.

We also had a lady nurse who came round every now and then and looked for head lice in our heads. We nicknamed her Nitty Nora. We queued up waiting for our turn to have our heads searched! Nits seemed to be rife in those days and our mothers had a fine toothed 'nit comb' to work through our hair. We all had short hair in those days.

The school dentist used to come to the school and inspect our teeth. If any work needed doing a note was sent home to our parents.

We also queued up when the polio injections were given and we anxiously looked at the kids in front of us to look at their faces as the 'pricks' were administered in order to try and work out if it hurt or not.

Jo Crawford pupil 1954 - 1961

8th July 1952 Mrs. Ward and I went with a party of 37 senior 2 girls to Liverpool. We were conducted around the docks, crossed by ferry to New Brighton, where we

had tea. We returned via the Mersey tunnel. The day was a great success adding many valuable means of expressing the lessons learnt during the year.

25th July 1952 Mr. George Marsden retired today after 37½ years at this school. He was presented with a walnut secretaire, a gift of the present staff and scholars, old boys and all members of staff.

25th June 1953 Our safety first team beat our boys team in a match at the Rex Cinema. Both teams did remarkably well and the school uniform was remarked upon as being very smart.



Miss Griffith's class – early 1950s

23rd July 1953 Mr. Fred Raynor leaves
New Head Teacher boys school **Mr. Geo. A. Matthews** takes over on 7th September 1953

I was there from 1953 to 1960 and had some great times. I remember Mr Phillips and Mr Coltan. I competed in children's day maypole dance, massed display and cross country racing

Peter Moore pupil 1953-1960

1954 Work commences to lay out Hunslet Moor as a park (Calvert, 1956, p 45)

1954 In the early part of 1954 it was decided to renew slum clearance in Leeds (Calvert, 1956, p 59)

I went to Hunslet Moor Primary School from 1954 and we used one of the rooms in Burton House as a classroom. I was made bank monitor and had to take all the shillings in a tin from Burton House down to Hunslet Moor every Monday. We were taught to save our money in those days. The winter lessons are fondly remembered because of the coal fire and how warm and cosy it was and in the summer we used to sometimes have lessons out in the garden at the back. Very very happy days.

Myra Rowlands pupil

1954 by now Burton House is being used both as an annex to Hunslet Moor and for some art/dance classes from Cockburn High School

I attended Hunslet Moor School from 4-11 years old, 1954-1961. I started in the nursery class and the teacher was called Mrs. Hartley. She was lovely. Some of us couldn't read, so instead of our names on our coat pegs etc., we had pictures; mine was an aeroplane, which I always thought of as a boys picture and I didn't like it! We had a huge open fire, guarded with a metal fire-guard which was occasionally decorated with just washed-out knickers and underpants! There was a rocking horse in one corner of the room and the windows on one wall of the room were too high for us to look out of. Every afternoon we slept on little camp beds. We had our own pillow with symbol...again the aeroplane and a prickly grey blanket to cover us up. I never actually slept, but laid quietly with tightly shut eyes.

After nursery class, the boys were separated from the girls. Boys were upstairs and we girls stayed downstairs, our playgrounds were separate too. Our classrooms were located around a rectangular hall. Toilets were outside and froze up in winter, as did the daily morning milk we had (free of charge)

Jo Crawford pupil 1954 - 1961

13th January 1955 Staff meeting this morning with a view of preventing time wastage...in change over for specialist lessons.

I also attended 1954-1961. Like Jo Crawford, I have the same memories of Mrs Hartley's class. Then Mrs Wilkinson's class on the other side of the hall. I had a run in with the Headmistress, who made a silly mistake about my behaviour and probably marked me for life with a distrust of Authority!

Upstairs Mr Harper was a greatly supportive teacher, newly qualified, perhaps. Then Mr Phillip's class for the 11-plus. I think Mr Matthews was head of the boys throughout this time. Looking back, the school was very supportive and a happy place to be. I went onto Cockburn High, which had a completely different atmosphere. A career in art education, photography and films, and an MA in Art and Design Practice

Ian Ingram Pupil 1954-1961

1st March 1956 Mr. Hoy HMI visited the school to say there would be a government inspection on Wednesday 21st March and Thursday 22nd March.



The logo was a replica of the Blenkinsop train. I've no idea when the badge was introduced to the school. I certainly had a navy blue blazer with the badge sewn on the front, top pocket. Certainly before 1960, maybe 1956/58 time

Jo Crawford pupil

I went to school here in 1957-1959 when I was a pupil at Hunslet Moor Junior School. Classes Junior 2 and 4 were housed in Burton House in classrooms downstairs. Junior 4 teacher was Miss Brown, a real teacher of the 'old school' – she must have retired soon after I left to go to Cockburn. I remember Cockburn using Burton House for music lessons in the same downstairs classroom, which had been occupied by Junior 4 – Hunslet Moor must have stopped using it by then. The upstairs classrooms were used by Cockburn to house the sixth form, certainly from 1964-1966 when I was there. I remember having all our English lessons in the classroom at the front overlooking the Cockburn playground.

Jean Armitage pupil



Burton House playground 1957

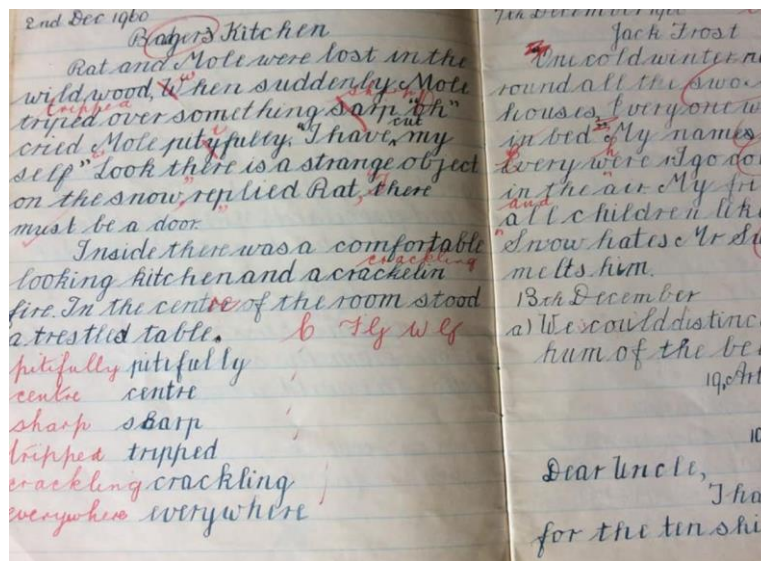
I was a pupil at Hunslet Moor from 1955-1961 but because of room shortages I had to spend my last two years at Burton House. I remember good times in the playground.

Kathryn Knight pupil 1955-1961

I went to Hunslet Moor School 1958. I remember being in a little show 'I'm a little teapot' with all the actions. I was about 6 or 7 years old. Maypole dancing too. I remember going to a show at the civic theatre on a coach in thick fog, it was all very exciting as was a trip to Malham.

Sylvia O Connell pupil 1958

17th October 1958 The Queen's visit to Leeds to attend the Centenary Music Festival. Schools are closed Friday.



Here is a page from my handwriting exercise book. Miss Brown insisted on good handwriting, which I tried my best to do, but obviously, I wasn't a good speller! I'm not sure teachers use red ink these days in order to highlight corrections, as it is considered to be aggressive. Obviously, Miss Brown had no idea about this concept in those days. I would have been nine ish at the time I think.

Jo Crawford pupil 1954 - 1961



Boys football team 1958

When I was about 6 my sister carols boyfriend Keith who she later married, bought me a clockwork rabbit for my birthday. I took this to school and during a morning assembly I attracted the attention of everyone by popping it up over the hymn book so that children were watching me and this rabbit and not Mrs ward who was taking the assembly so she confiscated it for the rest of the day!

Hazel Dymond pupil 1958 - 1964

Class 1959



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