

FRIENDS OF QUEEN STREET SCHOOL

Barton upon Humber

NEWSLETTER

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All Systems Go!

Works to Start

At last we have a date when the main work will start at the School—and the Preservation Trust would like you, a Friend of Queen Street School, to be the first to know.



This 1980s view from the front porch shows the tiled floor which is still in a sound condition and, like other original features, will be conserved and form part of the restored school.

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Following competitive tendering we can announce that the Dewsbury firm, Walter West Builders Ltd. has been awarded the contract for the restoration works. Walter West Builders Ltd. is a long established family business and has undertaken a significant number of church restoration projects.

Work will start on Monday 10th September.

York architects, Potts, Parry, Ives and Young, are leading the Design Team that includes Martin Design Associates (mechanical and electrical engineering), DAC Wood (structural engineer) and Quantity Surveyors, Turner & Holman.

The detailed specification has evolved over the last twelve months and has involved English Heritage's Historic Buildings Architect.

Maslen Environmental Ltd. of Saltaire has provided funding advice and helped the Trust with procurement of the Design Team.

The Trust has appointed a part time adviser to help with project management.

North Lincolnshire Council continues to support the Trust as part of the South Humber Bank Heritage Tourism Project.

School Funding In Place

Funding for the School Restoration Project is now, finally, in place.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is providing £858,500 towards restoration of the School and initial running costs.

Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency, has awarded

"it is a really great example of a community-led project, where members of the community really care about their heritage"
Simon Thurley,
Chief Executive, English Heritage

£650,000 as part of the wider South Humber Bank Heritage Tourism

Project. Part of this funding is for refurbishment of the former canteen annex.

English Heritage has contributed £82,000 to help with restoration of the historic fabric, and has helped the architect with conservation aspects of the final specification. More p 3.



Froebel Bad Blankenburg Museum, Germany. One of our two Continental links. See page 6.

Hidden Clues

Archaeological Investigation Continues

Following earlier trench investigations, Caroline Atkins has been completing the archaeology survey, which is a Planning requirement. Caroline has meticulously recorded the significant historical features. David Lee Photography Ltd undertook a complete photographic survey and additional photographs will be taken as work progresses. Caroline will monitor the contractor's works as part of a watching brief and will be able to record any new findings as they are uncovered.

Caroline has spent a great deal of time investigating how the Wilderspin gallery might have been constructed. By removing parts of the wall plaster she has uncovered fixing holes and paint evidence to suggest the exact dimensions and structure of the gallery, confirming earlier conjecture of Keith Miller and John French based on the school log books and preliminary measurements. A new find is a

blocked-up window, previously unrecorded, under the gallery. It must have provided light beneath it when it was used for coal storage and as a cloakroom. Evidence for the coat rails has also been found. This information will help re-create exactly the appearance of the Wilderspin Infant Schoolroom as it was in 1844/45.

Extensive areas of wall and ceiling plaster have been earmarked for retention. Some areas of tiled flooring will be conserved. Doors and other woodwork have been kept, catalogued and put to one side ready for reuse or to use as patterns for making replicas.

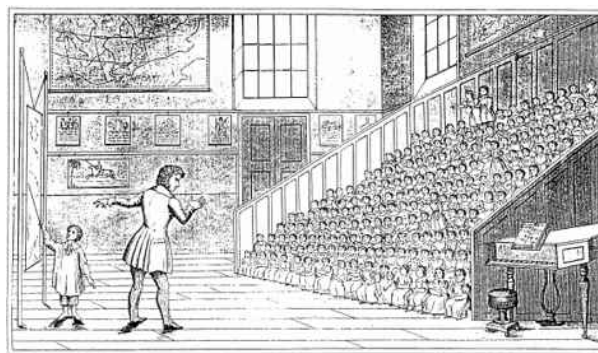
Once floors are lifted we hope to find additional evidence of the playground and, internally, the Wilderspin teaching posts around which small groups of children would be taught. A limited look above the ceiling of the ground floor of the former Master's house suggests we may be in for further exciting discoveries. The bedroom

layout, patches of wallpaper and the fireplace can just be seen. As soon as possible, Caroline will investigate to what extent details of the original (1844) layout, fixtures, fittings and decorative treatments have survived the remodelling of the Master's House in 1879 when it was converted into a ground floor classroom. The first floor will be reinstated to create a plant room and archive space.

Paint analysis was undertaken by Lisa Oestreicher, Architectural Paint Analyst, to uncover evidence of the School's decorative changes. Lisa's report will guide restoration design of the principal historic rooms. Following the 1950s the building appears to have been painted no more than twice, compared to having been painted thirty four times in its first one hundred year history – or approximately every three years, reflecting changes in paint quality as much as maintenance budgets.



A number of doors have survived which can be reused. The door screens, shown here, and the classroom folding doors will also be restored.



Children in Gallery, receiving a lesson on geography, Plate III from Samuel Wilderspin's *System for the Education Of The Young*, 1840.

Archaeological investigation is revealing the precise way Wilderspin's gallery must have been fitted in the Infants' Schoolroom.

Newsletter Distribution

Can You help?

As you will appreciate, it will save the Friends' funds if some people are available to share in taking out the Newsletter. Contact Anthony Berridge or Ian Wolsley if you think you could help.

Your Special Invitation

Friends of Queen Street School are invited to have a last look inside the School before work starts.

Come along on Sunday 9th September between 12 noon and 3pm to have a peek inside before the contractor takes possession of the site the following day.

You can have a look at the restoration plans, meet members of the Project Subcommittee and look at a display about Samuel Wilderspin's ideas on infant education.

The display will be in the Assembly Rooms, opposite the School, as part of Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days 2007 and will be open to the public between 10am and 4pm.

Barton—upon—Humber

CIVIC SOCIETY

Why not make a day of it?

Barton upon Humber Civic Society will be opening 51 Fleetgate on Sunday 9th September as well, between 10am and 3pm. This is North Lincolnshire's oldest house, dating from 1325, with a timber framed, magnificent crown post roof. The premises are also open on Saturday 8th September from 10am – 3pm as part of Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days 2007.



heritage open days

Friendly Support

Following our appeal for School-related items, we are delighted with the Friends' response, with loans and donations of School photos, school books and educational equipment. These will be very useful for displays and for teaching purposes. Thank you very much! We will, of course, always welcome the opportunity for further donations or loans which will be of use in the re-opened School.



**Recent Acquisition:
Domestic Science Class:**
Zena Clipson, Brenda Whiles, Sybil Stamp (New Zealand), Irene Altoft, Doris James, Brenda Chapman, Gladys Thompson, Nellie Ayres, Cathy Holland.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Donaldson (née Whiles)

Making Ends Meet

Despite the £1.6m mentioned on page 1, additional funding has been secured or is being sought from the Glanford Building Preservation Trust and the SITA Trust. The latter distributes funding through the Landfill Communities Fund for community improvement projects around landfill sites owned by the waste management company SITA UK.

If successful, the SITA funding will enable us to reconstruct the Victorian privy and walling around the Wilderspin garden.

In addition to money already spent on the School, the Preservation Trust will be providing in-kind support - mainly training costs for volunteers. The total capital budget is £1.7m but a number of

changes had to be made to the original plans to match the available budget. Omissions will be reinstated as additional funds become available. The folding screen, for instance, will be carefully stored until more money is found. Gas-light fittings will have to wait for another day—but not too long we hope.

Friends to the Rescue



Autumn storms caused some damage to roof slates. It was impossible to find a roofer able to help so Trust Volunteers, John French and Ian Wolseley tackled the job, replacing dislodged slates. Other work completed by Friends John Walker, Jenny Watson and Vikky Lister has included tidying the site and clearing vegetation.



John French—up to his neck as usual—clearing a drain inspection hole. With the help of Friend, Martin Watson, the roof drains were kept clear during the recent heavy rains, and the ground drainage flows were monitored. Contractors jet-washed the drains and surveyed their condition using remote CCTV. It seems some of the original drainage will be re-useable.

Get Involved

A growing number of people have offered their services as volunteers to help in the new School. There will be all sorts of ways to get involved. Each volunteer will have different amounts of time to offer at the School or from home. Activities will include “front of house” and “behind the scenes” work.

Former teachers may like to try their hand as a schoolmistress or schoolmaster in one the role play activities with children. But you

don't have to have taught in the past to do this. You may prefer to work with children or with adults. There will be a shop and a refreshments area to run. If you like meeting people you might like to be a visitor guide. An oral history group will interview former pupils and staff of the School, and others keen to share their childhood memories. These interviews will need transcribing and adding to the Archive. The collections of the School will need tender loving care and

meticulous recording. If you have practical skills – making, mending, even gardening – these would be much appreciated too.

Whatever your background, this might be just the opportunity to develop new interests and skills with the friendly support of others.

Contact Ian Wolseley (t: 660445) if you think you would like to get involved.



During the autumn the windows were unblocked to air and dry the building, and get light inside for internal works. Minor repairs to the roof were done too. Asbestos was removed and the site cleared of debris including thirty years of pigeon guano! The building was then pigeon-proofed.



Letter From America

Forging links between Queen Street, Germany and the Netherlands.

Professor Fletcher Du Bois, a long-standing friend of Queen Street School and a leading education specialist of the National-Louis University, Chicago and Heidelberg, has for many years appreciated the importance of Wilderspin and the significance of Barton's Queen Street School.

Professor Du Bois visited the School last year, furthering his research on the great educational pioneer, before travelling to the National School Museum in the Netherlands and the Froebel Museum in Germany.

"Since I have received several enquiries regarding my recent travels to make connections for the Queen Street School project with other, already established, school museums, I want to give a brief account of what I saw, how it went and what we can hope for", reports Professor Du Bois.

"Not to keep you all in suspense, I will say outright that the interim director of the National School Museum in the Netherlands (in Rotterdam) was very positive in his reaction to what we intend to do. He said – this is more or less a direct quote – "if we had a building like that in Holland we would be very, very happy". In other words we can look to creating a good relationship with that museum in some form or other.

The people I spoke to in the Froebel Bad Blankenburg Museum (in Germany) were likewise enthused about what I shared about us, just as I was about what I heard from them. I think we can expect a good supportive reciprocal relationship with them.

So the results of both visits were very positive.

Now for a few details: The National Museum of Education is quite big – it is the largest school museum I have ever visited. It has a number of

reconstructed classrooms; it has special exhibits and a great deal of archive material. The interim director, Mr. Van Huiten was very welcoming and very knowledgeable. He has some great ideas for things he wants to do in the museum. One idea that particularly caught my attention was to create rooms where visitors can write or share their own school experiences – not just the positive ones but also what they hated about school. I believe accepting that people also can have very unhappy memories of their own schooling and dealing with that somehow will make more people interested in attending a school museum since it shows that it is connecting with real lived lives. Going through the different reconstructed classrooms from the middle ages on up was a wonderful way of experiencing the history of education. I recommend this museum to any of you who happen to be in Rotterdam. The link for this museum is

www.schoolmuseum.nl/start.htm.



National Museum of Education, Rotterdam, Netherlands

The Bad Blankenburg museum is much more like what we are trying to create. First of all it is housed in the building where Froebel started his first kindergarten on 28th June 1840. It has a small staff. It is dependent upon teachers not only bringing their classes to visit but also on them coming for professional development activities. Their setting is in a small town which is "on the map" due to its connection with

Froebel (and for being a place famous for producing lavender). Though the head of the museum was on vacation when I visited, I did talk with two other women who are very engaged in the museum. One has been there from the start and the other for six years. They are experienced in the field of early childhood education and in other areas like philosophy. We had a fine time sharing stories and thinking about what makes a good museum and how one can serve the community as a whole making what one offers a real boon to all. I spoke with the director Frau Rock at length sometime ago and will keep in contact with her and the others there. I can envision some fine sharing between us and them. We can learn much from how they have sought to continue even in trying times. The displays are attractive and not overwhelming. There are places for people to sit as a group and discuss what they have seen. I watched a group of adults doing just that and was impressed. There is also a room for children to experience Froebel's approach to early childhood education. The link to an English version of their web site is

www.heidecksburg.de/froebelmuseum_eng.htm

All in all I am very glad to have started this dialogue (a triologue actually, when we connect the Barton-Rotterdam-Bad Blankenburg notes we get a picture of exciting trans-national school museum action)."

Many thanks, Fletcher Du Bois, for making such valuable continental connections with our cousins. We look forward to building on these foundations!

Our Oldest Friend?

Is Mary, now 95 years old, the oldest surviving School pupil?

Mary Bell was born in 1911 in Soutergate – in a cottage, long since demolished and now part of the site for the newly-erected 'Rosalie Terrace'. At the end of Soutergate was The Beck, fed by artesian springs, and the children were frightened of it. "They said there was no bottom to it," Mary told Vicky Lister during a recent interview which will be added to the School's Oral History Archive.

Mary enjoyed her time at the nearby Church School, particularly loving geography and sewing lessons – "I got while I did button-holes perfectly". She remembers the Vicar, Chad Varah's father, visiting the School and the children being taken for services at the Church. "The class rooms were heated by coke stoves and the toilets were at the bottom of the playground. In the School Holidays we would go brambling, picking violets and gathering watercress in the stream on Dam Road."

After leaving the School at 14, Mary's first job was at the Vicarage where she had to clean all the boys' boots and scrub the brick floors – "My knees were so raw!" She quickly left there and went to Hoppers' Cycle Works and then to Burkitt's Bakery.

But it was not all work; Mary went dancing in the Assembly Rooms and to the New Theatre (Barton's first cinema) in the Odd Fellows' Hall, and later to the other

cinema – "I worked at the Star Cinema," she recalls.

Her family moved from Soutergate to 20 Dam Road where "we three girls had the back bedroom, the 5 boys were in the middle room, and Mum and Dad had the front bedroom."

In 1934 Mary married and moved to Scunthorpe, where she still lives with her son. "I remember a couple of the teachers – Miss Daddy and Miss Lawson, who gave me a big doll – and Ida Lambert, Nora and Mary Robinson, Molly Conway, Lilley ...". "I would love to hear from any of the children in my class," Mary concluded.



Mary Bell (née Oakley). Our oldest former pupil!

We would like to know too – if you were in Mary's class, or attended the School even earlier or, more likely, since and would like to share your memories to help with the displays and exhibition, please get in touch with Ian Wolseley at the Old Boathouse – see page 8 for details.

Reminiscences will be added to the Archive but will also be useful when the visitors' displays are designed. These will hopefully include facilities for visitors to access the sound and image archives.

We are interested in schooldays memories beyond those of the Church School. Wherever you went to school, in Barton or elsewhere, we would like to know.

Were your ancestors taught by



Samuel Wilderspin?

This is an interesting question, to which some people might answer 'yes'. But it would be brilliant if anyone could trace in their family history some evidence to provide a link between themselves and the great pioneer! If so, please do let us know.

Monday Morning

Don't do that, John!
 You should never lean upon
 Your book. The corners will curl.
 What are you doing, you silly girl?
 Don't sharpen your pencil all over your table!
 Now what is it? What is the matter, Mabel?
 David poked you with his pencil. What a disgrace!
 David, that is very nasty. What is it, Grace?
 Ronnie, don't kick people. Keep your feet still –
 Now, look at the blackboard. Yes, Bill?
 You should have thought of that earlier.
 Hurry up, then!
 What date is it today? Now what, Ben?
 Your cat has had kittens? How very sweet.
 Make quite sure now that your writing is neat.
 Haven't I written the date? Oh dear –
 Someone tell me, then I'll write it here.
 Monday 3rd April – Now, get on.
 I must hear some reading, come along, Tom.

Don't ask me for words when they're up on the wall.
 Now do get on quickly, or it will be time for the hall.
 Here's a rubber, Andy – what's that? Renu's been sick?
 Don't cry, Renu. I'll clean you up in a tick.
 I'll put down some sawdust; go and find Mr. Brown, Jane.
 Now, children, you must start writing again.
 Tom, what are you doing, standing near to my table?
 Did I tell you to read? You can see I'm not able.
 Now go back and get on.
Not that way, Tom!
 There, that's better, Renu. You really look smart!
 Oh no! Tom has slipped over!
 What a start to the day.
 No wonder my hair is turning grey!

Barbara Thompson

A retired teacher and a 'Friend' of QSS

Competition

This is your chance to win a highly sought after QSS fridge magnet - not yet available in the School Shop!

Just answer the question below and send your entry and contact details to bartonschool@aol.com or to the Old Boat House, Waterside Road, Barton DN18 5BD.

Closing date: 9th September (Entries can be handed in on the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day)



Who's Who At QSS?

John Walker was elected Chair of the Queen Street School Preservation Trust in March, succeeding Ian Wolseley. The Vice-Chairs are Jim Robertson and Jenny Watson. The Secretary of the Trust's Management Board, the Council of Management, is Keith Ready, and the Treasurer is Max Withrington. The good progress made would not have been possible without their support and that of other Council members.

The Project Subcommittee which is managing the restoration project is chaired by John French. Jenny

Watson minutes these meetings and Carol Thornton word-processes these for distribution, as she also does for the Council meetings. The Trust is grateful to Carol and Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire, and to North Lincolnshire Council, for their support.

Ian Wolseley was appointed as Development Officer in February. Ian works full time for the Trust and has been mainly focussing on the building project and funding but will be devising and managing the School's activities. He is the public point of contact for the Trust.

Former civil engineer Jim Wilson has been appointed as Assistant Development Officer (Construction Project). The post is part time and Jim will advise the Trust on construction matters during the building phase and liaise with the contractor and architect.

The Friends of Queen Street School, chaired by Anthony Berridge, continues to support the work of the Trust. A growing number of Friends have offered their help as volunteers.

Things are going to get much busier for both Friends and volunteers with the opening of the School in 2008.

Happy Days

Former pupils of Queen Street School returned to their old classrooms for one last look before work starts. Memories came flooding back as the group swapped stories of their schooldays at the former Church School over eighty years ago. Several were former classmates and enjoyed spotting old friends from their class photograph of 1926 which has been added to the Queen Street School Preservation Trust's Archive.

Recollections included the open fire blazing away in the corner on cold winter days making it feel so warm and cosy.

Mondays were special days as the head teacher always had the children show and shake their handkerchiefs in the School assembly. "Anyone who did not have one", one former pupil recalled, "was given a sheet of newspaper as a substitute". The only "boy" in the group recalls how all the boys were lined up in the yard and marched into the school. "On one occasion I

was late for school as I had been scrumping pears". When he did finally arrive he was welcomed with "three of the best".

The Trust's Vice-Chair, Jenny Watson, and long-time supporter, John French, chatted with the former pupils. "Many people have contributed to this project over the years", said Jenny, "We have worked so hard to get to this point and days like today make it all worthwhile. It was a joy and a privilege to meet and listen to the group".



The interviews were filmed and may be used in the displays. When the work is done and the School is open to visitors next summer the Trust will invite the group back to see how their old school has been restored.

If you have photographs or items which might be useful to the School's archive and exhibitions, and you would be prepared to donate or loan them for display or for copying, please get in touch with Ian Wolseley.

Contacts

For most enquiries please contact Ian who will deal with your enquiry or direct it on to other Trust members:

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Queen Street School Preservation Trust

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