



North Wraxall School courtesy of Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

A School Timeline

1889-90	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
School pence	9	12	8½	Teachers	142	1	1½
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	3	10	4
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Fuel	2	7	0
Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	9	4	4	Books	4	8	1
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance		4	9
The Rector	102	7	3				
Total	152	6	3½	Total	152	6	3½

May 7 School visited and examined by the R. F. Curry, esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools.

May 25 Report received - "The children attending this school are in good order, making satisfactory progress in the elementary subjects."

The average attendance for the year was 52, and the number of times the school was open 485

1890-91	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
School pence	8	18	8½	Teachers	121	2	4½
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	3	0	0
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Fuel	2	9	0
Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	9	4	4	Books	2	13	2½
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance		4	9
The Rector	80	4	3½				

		Total	129	9	4		Total	129	9	4
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May 1 School visited and examined by R. F. Curry, Esq., H. M. Inspector of Schools.

May 14 Report received - "The children are in very good order and are receiving careful instruction in the elementary subjects."

The average attendance for the year was 45, and the number of times the school was open 485

The school was pronounced efficient and a certificate to that effect was received.

1891-1892	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
School Pence	8	5	3½	Teachers	105	17	6	
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	6	16	8	
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Fuel	1	0	0	
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Books	1	13	5	
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance		4	9	
The Rector	72	0	8½					
Total	115	12	4	Total	115	12	4	

Further repairs to the school cost £20.

May 6 The school visited and examined by Mr. S. Norris Assistant Inspector of Schools.

May 29 Report received, "The children are in good order, their writing should improve, but in other respects their progress in the elementary subjects is fairly satisfactory. They should be taught some simple pieces of poetry, and, I think, the time has now come for them to be taught either geography or history."

The average attendance for the year was 51, and the number of times the school was open 485

1892-1893	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	86	12	8	
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	16	16	4½	
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	3	2	8	
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	12	11	10½	
The Rector	79	2	0	Insurance		4	9	
Total	119	8	4	Total	119	8	4	

May 9 School Visited and examined by R. F. Curry, esq., H. M. Inspector of Schools

May 25 Report received, "The children are in nice order; the fifth standard is rather weak in arithmetic, but in other respects satisfactory progress is being made in the elementary subjects. The recitations are well known, and the children show a very fair knowledge of geography. Ventilation is needed in the roof of the school."

The average attendance for the year was 59, and the number of times the school was open 485

1893-1894	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	72	16	9½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	7	6	6
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	1	19	0
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	5	14	4
The Rector	47	15	0½	Insurance		4	9
Total	88	1	4½	Total	88	1	4½

May 15 The school was visited and examined by Mr. S. Norris. Assistant Inspector of Schools.

June 5 Report received, "The children are in nice order; and are making good general progress. The infants are receiving careful instruction."

The average attendance for the year was 51, and the number of times the school was open 485

1894-1895	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	98	5	7
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	12	12	7½
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	2	15	7½
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books		13	8
The Rector	69	5	11	Insurance		4	9
Total	109	12	3	Total	109	12	3

The wall behind the school premises was bricked up at an expense of £40 and in 1897 was repaired at an expense of £50

May 22 The school visited and examined by Mr. S. Norris, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

June 18 Report received, "The children are in good order. They are making satisfactory progress in the elementary subject, and show a fair knowledge of geography. The infants are making fairly good progress."

The average attendance for the year was 42, and the number of times the school was open 485

1895-1896	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	92	1	9
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	40	11	8
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	2	18	9
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	4	11	9½
The Rector	99	17	4½	Insurance		4	9
Total	140	3	8½	Total	140	3	8½

May 8 The school visited and examined by Mr. H. R. Mines, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

May 29 Report received, "The children are in good order, and are making satisfactory progress. There would, however, be fewer inaccuracies in the arithmetic of the fifth standard if the scholars were taught to make bolder figures and to arrange their sums more neatly."

Edith Mary Billett and Amy Louisa Bailey, both aged nine years, passed the fifth standard.

The average attendance for the year was 44, and the number of the times the school was open 487

1896-1897	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	102	7	0½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	11	11	6½
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	2	6	1½
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	2	19	3½
The Rector	79	2	5	Insurance		4	9
Total	119	8	9	Total	119	8	9

May 3 School visited and examined by R. F. Curry, Esq., H. M. Inspector of Schools

May 15 Report received, "The children are orderly and attentive. Those in the upper standards are weak in arithmetic, but in all other respects good progress is being made."

The average attendance for the year was 40, and the number of times the school open 485

1897-1898	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	83	4	4½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	49	9	9
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	3	10	8
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	3	7	10
The Rector	99	11	0½	Insurance		4	9
Total	139	17	4½	Total	139	17	4½

May 4 School visited and examined by Mr. S. Norris, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

May 12 Report received, "The children are orderly and attentive, and are making good progress."

The average attendance of the children for the year was 36, and the number of times the school was open 483 times.

1898-1899	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	84	15	2½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	5	0	9½
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	3	5	6
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	4	14	6
The Rector	57	14	5	Insurance		4	9

	Total	98	0	9	Total	98	0	9
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April 7 The school visited and examined by Mr. S. Norris, Assistant Inspector of Schools, no notice having been given.

May 27 Report Received, "The scholars attending this school are in good order, and are making satisfactory progress."

The average attendance of children for the year was 38, and the number of times the school was open 484.

1899-1900	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	69	15	4½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	6	6	0
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	1	10	0
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	3	10	4½
The Rector	41	0	2	Insurance		4	9
Total	81	6	6	Total	81	6	6

January 10 School inspected by Mr. S. Norris, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

April 10 School inspected by Mr. Dolman, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

May 20 --- Report received, "The children attending this school are in good order, and are making very fair progress."

The Board of Education sanction the omission of the annual inspection of the school in May, 1901
The average attendance of children for the year was 38, and the number of times the school was open 484.

October Primary Visitation of the Lord Bishop of Bristol. Among other questions put to the clergy of the diocese, he had required whether they visited or taught in the elementary schools of their parishes. In his charge, delivered October 25, at Chippenham, he says "Let me read to you the facts, not the words, of answers of the kind to gladden a bishop's heart. The first is from a county parish, entirely agricultural: 'Every day nearly I teach in Holy Scripture and ordinary subjects.'"

1900-1901	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	92	17	6
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	6	18	11
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	2	14	6
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	1	10	11
The Rector	64	0	0	Insurance		4	6
Total	104	6	4	Total	104	6	4

April 16 School visited by Mr. S. Norris, Assistant Inspector of Schools.

June 6 Report received, "The children are in very good order. They read and write nicely, and are making very fair progress in arithmetic."

The average attendance of children for the year was 45, and the number of times the school was open 485

1901-1902	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	104	7	7½
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	1	14	7½
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	4	16	3
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	4	1	4
The Rector	75	0	0	Insurance		4	6
Total	115	6	4	Total	115	6	4

An Act of Parliament authorised Councils to levy a rate and take over all the schools in the county. Wilts levied the first rate in October, and Lord Methuen ceased subscribing. He had subscribed £5 a year regularly since the first opening of the school.

January 27 The school visited without notice by H. M. Inspector, H. W. Household, Esq.

April 3 The school visited without notice by Mr. Dolman, Assistant Inspector of Schools

June 1 Report received, "The children are carefully taught, and their progress is, on the whole satisfactory. The tone and discipline of the school are very good."

The average attendance for the year was 47, and the number of times the school was open 485

1902-1903	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Teachers	102	6	11
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	25	10	0	Repairs	8	3	9
Interest on £336	9	4	4	Fuel	2	13	2
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	7	11	8
The Rector	80	13	8	Insurance		4	6
Total	121	0	0	Total	121	0	0

March 25 The school visited by H. M. Inspector of Schools, H. W. Household, Esq.

May 22 Report received, "The children are in good order, and are making satisfactory progress."

The average attendance of the school for the year was 44, and the number of times the school was open 480.

In the Bath Chronicle this year were published some letters on the Education Act just passed professing to be written by A. Knotcutter, P.G.M.U. He advocates the plan that the clergy should teach in elementary schools, especially in those rural districts. "It may be asked," he says in his letter, "Will any clergyman condescend to become the master of a National School?.. Has anything of the sort ever been heard of? That there have been, and are, instances is a fact. How many, it is impossible to say. One case, at all events, may be quoted, and it is a remarkable one. There is a gentleman in Holy Orders who, as a

student at Oxford, distinguished himself so highly that his college, one of the oldest and noblest of the university, bestowed upon him all the offices it had the power of conferring short of the headship, which in his time, was not vacant. At last the fellows presented him with a rectory in a rural district. There he was led, and is leading, the life which, in these letters, has been recommended to others. And the example is a happy one. If the acquisition of the love of all who know him is worth having, that has blessing is his. As a rule his life is spent among his people. Occasionally, however, he walks into that city, which, although the oldest in England, is, as it has always been, the gayest, and when there, he gives to his Literary Club, the benefit of his extensive learning and good-humoured wit. After that, though the night may be dark and wintry, he trudges nine miles, over a lonely road, to his home. This long walk he likes, and he must return at once in order to open the National School in the morning, the school in which his days are spent. Many, no doubt, would like to know the name of this "working man," but it will not be given here, since to do so might interfere with his valuable work. If, however, Mr. Balfour, the present, or Earl Spencer, the next premier, would like to be told, it would be at the service of either. And if any dispenser of patronage shall offer him a Deanery or a Bishopric, he will have conferred on himself, the giver, a higher honour than on the reverend master of a National School, the receiver."

1903-1904	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
*	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	23	3	8	Teachers	97	11	10½
*	Interest on £336	8	8	0	Repairs	10	7	7½
	Lord Methuen	3	15	0	Fuel	1	14	7½
	The Rector	77	16	8½	Books	7	11	8
					Insurance		4	6
	Total	113	3	4½	Total	113	3	4½

*The interest on consols is reduced from 2¼ to 2½ per cent.

March 31 The school visited by R. F. Curry, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools.

June 11 Report received, "The children attending this school are in good order, and are making satisfactory progress."

The average attendance for the year was 44, and the number of times the school was open 483.

May 1, 1904 to August 4, 1905	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	28	19	7	Teachers	120	18	8½
	Interest on £336	10	10	0	Repairs	8	11	6
	The Rector	98	18	3	Fuel	3	0	10¼
					Books	5	12	8¼
					Insurance		4	6
	Total	188	7	10	Total	188	7	10

February 13 and April 4. School visited by R. F. Curry, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools.

May 5 Report received, "The scholars are orderly and attentive, and are, on the whole making satisfactory progress."

The average attendance of children for the year was 46, and the number of times the school was open 483.

1905 April. On the retirement of the governess, m. I. Martin, the managers proposes to hand the school over to the County Council. Alterations at the cost of £150 were insisted upon, and November 27, the new system began under Miss Lidstone, and two assistants, E. M. Griffin and A. L. Bailey. The school now accommodates 72 children.

The grants received, and the annual average attendance and the number of times the school at North Wraxall was open, are given by this table

Year	Grant			Average Attendance	No. of Times School Open
	£	s	d		
1871	14	1	8	56	
1872	39	11	0	58	454
1873	44	3	0	60	439
1874	50	8	4	74	471
1875	53	10	0	75	480
1876	61	9	0	77	471
1877	76	4	0	88	485
1878	88	19	5	102	483
1879	93	11	7	104	479
1880	95	12	9	109	462
1881	90	19	10	103	485
1882	74	7	10	91	485
1883	72	6	10	80	477
1884	65	12	6	75	485
1885	19	4	5	70	485

The efficiency of the school is due in no small degree to the fewness of holidays, the number of times when the school is open varying between 487 and 478. (Figures not shown in the above table). The school is also open twice, for an hour-and-a-half each time every Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day for religious instruction.

Two letters, dated respectively December 17, 1899, and November 30, 1900, from Mr. Fuller, of Neston Park, contain several references to North Wraxall School.

“Your scheme for paying the teachers by the day is novel, but it sounds right in principle. No holiday, too, (except harvest), is unusual; if the effect is to improve the attendance, the limit is very valuable, as especially as I find the teachers are more anxious than the children for holidays, half or whole. There can be no doubt the schools should be opened at least 450 times in a year, and in order to get this, the teachers should reap a benefit.”

“I observe that you draw nothing from the Education Department, and therefore you hold yourself responsible for the education of every child in your parish. The result is most excellent, and the venture, I should think unique. I observe, too, the vast difference between a real educationalist and the ordinary paid school teacher; in your case, your object is the largest number of days the school is opened - even avoiding holidays; - the latter’s object is the fewest days for opening the school with the longest holidays allowable.”