

Sevington School News

April 2016



My dear Friends,

Time to get that Maypole out again and try Morris dancing. We have had a gusty, stormy winter, if mild, so let's drum up the powers that be for a glorious summer leading to a good harvest.

I hope you have enjoyed Easter and are feeling virtuous following lent.

Christmas seems so long ago now, but that was when I last met up with many of you. Trustee Karen McCormack organised the cubs and brownies to come and sing Christmas Carols. Their singing was splendid. The event was so popular we had to take it in turns to partake of the delicious tea, mince pies and mulled wine. The school room was dressed with original freezes, the oil lamps were lit in the parlour and the fire made a welcome blaze. It was very cosy. And I dare say a few coins were put in the coffers.

You can see Karen pictured in the article from Isobel about the Bowood House Dog Show. It is sad it is the last one.

I am told there have been incidents of mice again. Traps have been set and Sister Hannah dutifully returned them to their rightful place in the fields. Apparently there were 4 in one morning!! All seems better now and the children are warned against making crumbs. The schoolroom is swept thoroughly at the end of every day.

I look forward to seeing you on one of our beautiful Summer Sundays.

Not long now.

Kay Oliver.



Editor

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*Miss Squire discusses***Sustenance in Inclement Weather**

My sister and I really do feel the cold in the inclement weather we are having with such constant rain. The coal club is indeed a boon in helping poor families spread the cost of winter fuel over the year as they find they are able to keep their cottages tolerably warm without worrying about the cost of coal.

.We keep the kitchen range and the schoolroom and parlour fires lit but the children still huddle in their cloaks and jackets, particularly those who live at Leigh Delamere and have to walk to school, so we put our heads together to devise a scheme to provide hot food at midday.

We take the opportunity offered by the need to keep the fires alight, by extending some training to the older scholars in the domestic duties of wives, kitchen, scullery and parlour maids and the 'odd job' tasks that boys will undertake. Hannah has a number of old Wiltshire recipes which use the bounteous gifts that God has given to the good working people of this area and she uses these to teach the girls how to cook cheap sustaining fare suitable for their families. The girls copy these out to take home and share with their mothers which is a good incentive for them to employ their best efforts in making their letters.

The boys are in charge of the fires and they collect kindling wood for drying out and they fill the coal scuttles. When the weather permits they also gather the vegetables and herbs used for soups and other dishes and all the children enjoy eating the results, even when they are not quite perfect. This also allows us to teach the girls to wait at table and for all the children to learn good table manners and the decorum that will be expected when they enter service. So much of value is achieved.

Below is a recipe we have taught our girls:

Cheese Pudding

This is a tasty dish which uses local cheese. The quantities given serve 4 but can be easily extended to feed a larger group.

2oz fresh breadcrumbs	½ a pint of milk
	2 eggs, beaten
4oz grated Wiltshire loaf cheese (or cheddar)	Salt and pepper
	½ a teaspoon made mustard

Put the grated cheese and breadcrumbs into a basin. Heat the milk and pour it over the cheese and breadcrumbs. Mix it well together and leave it to stand for one hour, for the breadcrumbs to soak up the liquid.

Grease a shallow oven dish (of 1 ½ pints capacity). Stir the beaten eggs into the mixture and add pepper and a little salt. Stir in the mustard. Pour the mixture into the prepared dish and bake in a preheated moderate oven (180/mark4/350) for 25-30 minutes until the pudding is well risen and firm to the touch and the top is starting to brown.

Miss Squire alias Meg Gomersall

Our New Trustee Sylvia Townsend

Just a little note to introduce myself as a newly elected trustee of Sevington School.

I have not moved more than a 6 mile radius from where I live now which is Corsham. I have been married to Gordon for 44 years and have two children, I would hardly call them children, James thirty six and Kate thirty four years. At sixteen I served a 4 year apprenticeship as a hairdresser for Eva in St Marys Street Chippenham and went on to set up my own business which I still continue to run.

My children were pupils of Langley Fitzurse Primary School Kington Langley in the days of Audrey Palmer and Mary Waite.

Audrey had been a long standing member of the Sevington project and Mary joined when she retired from Langley Fitzurse.

On my daughters last weeks of attending primary I was asked if I would be interested in joining Langley Fitzurse as they had a child starting in the September with special needs, I accepted the post on a part time basis and worked there for 23 years running my hairdressing and school work side by side.

Audrey Palmer was not only my children's teacher but a great friend, until her death. She always wanted me to become a member of the Sevington team and I promised her when I left Langley Fitzurse I would join, which I did in 2011. Mary Waite was already here as was Nikki Wright, Sue Dann, Sue Sunderland, Barbara Sealy and Julia Stacey all who were associated with Langley Fitzurse during my time there.

I very much enjoy my involvement at Sevington, we make a great team and I can recommend it to anyone who might be thinking of joining .

Sylvia Townsend

Make 2016 the year you visit Sevington Victorian School!



Sevington School is a beautifully preserved Victorian village school set in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside, close to Chippenham and Castle Combe.

Come and experience the authentic school room and the school mistress's house and gardens.

Open Days

Sunday 10th July, 2-5pm Victorian Costumes and Crafts

An exhibition of costumes, samplers, lace and other Victorian crafts.

Entry: Adults £2 Children £1 Family ticket £5

Tea and home-made cakes available

Sunday 14th August, 2-5pm Miss Squire's Story in 20 Objects

Miss Squire was the village school mistress for almost 60 years. This exhibition gives a unique insight into her life and times.

2.15pm: School room experience and talk

Entry: Adults £2 Children £1 Family ticket £5

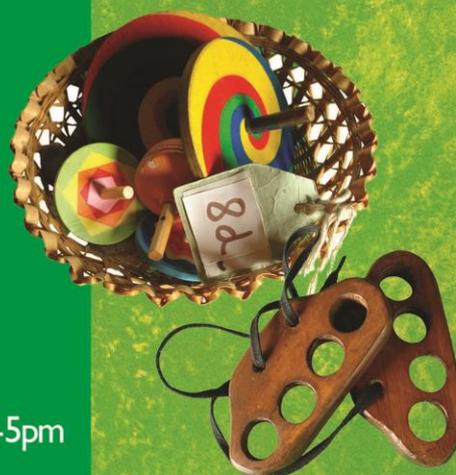
Tea and home-made cakes available

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September, 2-5pm Heritage Open Weekend

2.15pm and 3.15pm: School room experience and talk

Free entry

Tea and home-made cakes available



Sevington Victorian School,
Sevington, Grittleton,
Chippenham, SN14 7LD

Find out more about us by visiting
our website below:
www.sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

Thanks to the Bowood Charity Dog Show and Summer Fair



In November Karen McCormack, one of our trustees, attended a Reception in the Orangerie at Bowood House to receive a donation on behalf of Sevington Victorian School from Lady Lansdowne and the organising committee of the Bowood Charity Dog Show and Summer Fair 2015.

Karen attended the Reception looking resplendent in her authentic Victorian costume. She has been a keen supporter of the Dog Show in the past with her Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Basil, who particularly enjoyed the Have-a-Go Agility and Splash and Fetch events, while Karen sampled the food and shopping and watched the displays in the Main Ring.

This is the third year that Sevington has been one of the local chosen charities to receive a generous donation from the proceeds of the Show. Over the past ten years the Show, run entirely by volunteers, has raised in the region of £250,000 for Wiltshire charities, and we at Sevington are proud and grateful to have been associated with it. Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and the 2015 Show was the last one. It was a great day out and will be missed!

Isobel Moore

Sevington's Collection:m

The Biblical Herbarium

The dictionary definition of a Herbarium is a systematically arranged collection of dried plants. Herbaria can come in all shapes and sizes. The Herbarium at Kew Gardens, for instance, houses over seven million specimens and plays a central role in research into plant biodiversity on Earth. Our Herbarium is a Biblical Herbarium and comes in the form of a wooden case which originally contained “seventy specimens of the Plants, Fruits, Seeds, Gums etc. mentioned in the Bible”. Each specimen has



been beautifully preserved in its own labelled cardboard box and the specimens range from red sandal wood and garlic bulbs to myrrh and the Christ thorn. Sadly, some of the specimens and the accompanying “Descriptive Pamphlet giving complete Biblical references” are missing.

The Herbarium was produced by Southall Bros. and Barclay, Birmingham. The company was founded in 1820 and registered in 1898 as a business of manufacturing and wholesale and retail chemists and druggists. In the nineteenth century the company was producing medical apparatus well respected by doctors and nurses and possibly the first disposable sanitary products for women. By 1914 the company had 800 employees and one of its best known products was Vitafer, a tonic which claimed to be a cure-all for ailments and the enfeebled strength of the British people in the aftermath of the First World War. We do not know exactly when our Herbarium was produced or how it found its way to Sevington.

Sevington was graced today by the presence of Queen Victoria. One scholar arrived dressed in a long dress, a fabric crown with a long veil flowing over her shoulders and the sash complete with the appropriate emblems. Miss Hannah Squire wondered whether it was the first time Her Majesty had ever entered a small domestic kitchen and Miss Elisabeth Squire was impressed with the diligence she showed with her handwriting practice.

Mary Waite

100 Club Winners

Jan 2016 D. Runacres

Feb 2016 Timothy George

March 2016 Karen McCormack

That concludes our news and we look forward to a lively summer.

Don't forget our website for information and updates;
www.sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

If anyone knows someone who would like to join our team as a friend or a trustee they will be most welcome. Please contact;
missquire@sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk.

