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# *Lillington Local History Society*

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*Images: Peter Coulls*



Celebrating 100 years of book lending.....

## LILLINGTON SCHOOL 1957-1960

My name is Andrew J B Robinson. As a child I lived with my family from 1957-1961 at Aldwick Close, Lillington (dubbed "nobs alley" by the locals when first built !). My father and several of our neighbours were boffins working for Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft at Whitley, Coventry, and my mother taught French at nearby Leamington College for Girls.



I attended Lillington County Junior School 1957-1960, and was in class 3/1 and 4/1 for my final two years, in the capable hands of a memorable young teacher called Daphne Morgan - out and out the best teacher I ever encountered anywhere. We were a class of 51 pupils, the top class of a three-class intake year of 150 children, streamed on ability. Mrs Davenport was in charge of the middle-ability class /2 again of

about 50 children. Other staff at that time included Mrs Weekes, Miss Luggar, and Mrs Enoch, with Mr Saunders as the head.

Miss Morgan gave us Progress Papers every week for two years in Arithmetic, English and Intelligence - in effect coaching us continuously for two years in how to pass the 11+ exam. It worked, as 50 out of the 51 in our class passed the 11+ in the summer of 1960, and went off to grammar schools - the boys to Warwick School and L College for Boys, the girls to King's High School Warwick and L College for Girls. I was one of ten lads from our class gaining the scarce direct grant free places at Warwick School that year (there were only 30 places for the whole of Warwickshire!).

Apart from the 11+ coaching, Miss Morgan taught us italic script, insisting that we all had Osmiroid italic fountain pens, and also introduced us to art techniques like lino cutting and printing, water colour washing, and charcoal drawing. Many of our class's output featured in the Leamington Spa schools art exhibitions in 1959 and 1960 - I still have a couple of the prize-winning efforts in my portfolio. Miss Morgan also took us to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performed by the RSC at Stratford, and on a memorable visit to the Standard Triumph car factory in Coventry. There were also mass annual school visits by special train to London (including the South Kensington museums, the Royal Tournament, and to Runnymede and Windsor) - surely a logistic nightmare for staff and helpers.

Miss Morgan thought that the lads would behave better if we sat in boy-and-girl pairs in each of the double desks with lift-up lids and inkwell holes. My desk partner was Lynda Duggins. Other classmates included Alan Moore, Nicola Thomson and Linda Ross (who all lived in Lime Avenue), Graham Spicer, Ian Bryden, Alan Payne, and Gillian Philips (who could run like a proper athlete even at that age). Miss Morgan was also a bit handy with the wooden ruler across the back of your legs if you behaved badly or answered back in class.

After one year at Warwick School, my family moved away from the Leamington area in late 1961, and I lost touch with all my old Lillington classmates except Alan Moore. It would be interesting to see if there is anyone still out there that shares some of my memories of that pre-1960s era at Lillington.

*Andy Robinson*

## LILLINGTON SCHOOL: 1964 THE ROUNDERS TEAM

We thought the photograph might be of interest for a future newsletter and can offer the following info.



We know the names of several team members, but hope that other LLHS members can confirm others, and we would love to hear news of any of them.

The team is, back row left to right: Doreen Fathers, Valerie Farmer, possibly Helen O'Brien, then not known, then Christine Churchill. Front row left to right: Susan Blakeman, Sue Kadlubowski, Anne McFarlane, Diane Butters, we think Linda Reynolds, then unknown, possibly first name Marian.

Sue thinks the photograph may have been taken by Mr Briggs, a student teacher, who was very popular with us all. I think he was only teaching in our last year - we were in 4-1 from September 1963-July 1964. Sue remembers the rounders team as being very successful and enjoyed playing against other schools on Saturdays. She had special coaching from Mr Briggs after injuring her wrist and finger when she slipped when running on a shiny floor which had just been waxed by a cleaner.

We would also love to know any news of our teacher for our last two years at the Juniors, Mrs Enoch. She was wonderfully supportive, and a great teacher. I know she has been mentioned by several other members, and of course know that she became head teacher after our head teacher Mr Saunders died. Her daughter Lynne went to the Squirrel prep school in Warwick, but later was at King's High School, Warwick, with us. Later Sue bumped into Lynne and Mrs Enoch when Sue was working at St Andrew's University, and Mrs Enoch was bringing Lynne up for the start of her university life. It's so difficult to judge age when you are little, and we imagine Mrs Enoch must have died, but does anyone know more about her? She really was a great teacher.

*Sue Kadlubowski and Tina Rowe*

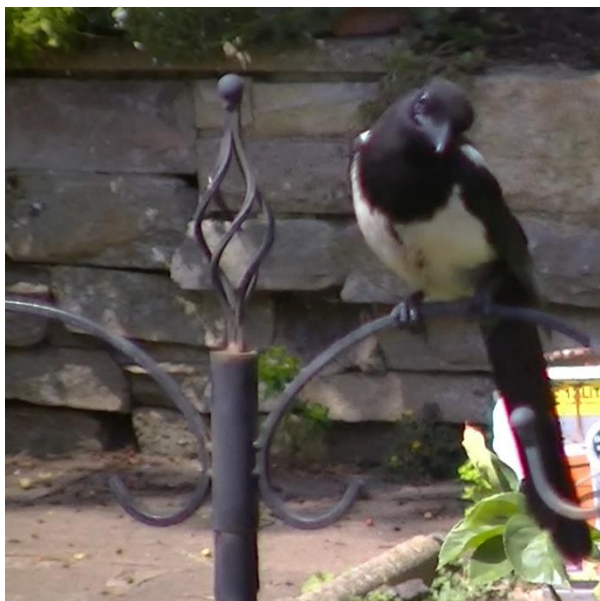
## OBSERVING BIRDS IN LILLINGTON

Kathy and I have lived in our house with a moderate sized rear garden for over 50 years and it has evolved during that time into a cultivated wilderness. During this time we have noticed a few changes in the visiting bird population. Magpies, which in my childhood were rather rare, are now numerous and frequent visitors. There are also many Jackdaws. These tend to nest in chimneys and we have a bird proof cover over ours, but a number of neighbours do not, so we clearly see pairs of birds in spring descending with nesting materials. These together with the magpies and carrion crows are frequent thieves at our bird feeder, especially when Kathy has put out bacon rind or the fat cut from a joint of meat.



*Tits*

We have had feeders in our garden for years, but all plagued by marauding grey squirrels! The first was a table on a wooden support which gave them no problem at all. The new one is a metal pole with feeders hanging from the top. But even greasing the pole didn't stop them! However two weeks ago I found a metal globe in a discount store which has done the trick perfectly (see photo). I had to drill a hole in it fractionally larger than the pole, then slide it down to jam at the height I wanted, which required much drilling and filing but it is squirrel proof.



There are always lots of visitors to our bird bath – blackbirds, robins, sparrows, - showing the importance of provision of water for birds, allowing them to drink and bathe regularly. Urban areas have a low availability of natural food resources, but supplementary feeding via bird feeders may help to reduce starvation and increase winter survival in birds. Recently there have been wrens in the garden looking for insects on the garden wall and on our vine. We often hear the noisy screech of buzzards flying high over our garden – usually in pairs, enjoying and taking advantage of the thermals.

*Magpie*

I have seen an increasing number of blackbirds in the garden, including a pair nesting nearby who regularly visit, coming close and taking little notice of us. They readily eat the fruit – apple

cores, etc put out for them in the bird feeder. They seem to love the berries from our new bush the Amelanchier Obelisk. Blackbirds make a fast-probing pecking action into the lawn with their beaks when eating worms – they need to eat them in small pieces- not swallow them whole. We also hear the melodious song of a blackbird very often in the late afternoon/evening. In Spring, there seem to be many cuckoos nearby, which we hear, but don't often see. I always enjoy seeing the swifts coming in Spring, although they seemed to be late arriving this year.



*Jackdaws under the feeder*

Robins and sparrows, blue tits and long tail tits, starlings, all seem to be plentiful this year, regularly visiting our bird feeders. The continuous noise of pigeons (mostly wood pigeons) and the gentle coo of collared doves is a good indicator of the ever increasing number of them to be seen locally.

### **Birds rare to Lillington**



Thrushes, finches and sparrows tend to disappear from gardens from October, preferring the plentiful food supplies on farmland or in woodland. We saw some lapwings last winter perched on local flooded fields in Lillington.

Just over a year ago I photographed this green woodpecker, a very rare visitor, on our path going up the lawn.

About four years ago I witnessed a sparrow hawk feeding on a wood pigeon it had caught but unfortunately I do not have pictures of this rare event.

*Text and images Andrew and Kathy Hobbs*

# 100 YEARS OF BOOK LENDING IN LILLINGTON



1949



1960



1967



**Centenary Week**  
**NOVEMBER 21-25**

Look out for posters giving details of

- Children's events
- Exhibition
- Local history talks
- Memories of using of the library
- Open Day and Celebration

*Black and white images: Windows on Warwickshire*

*Colour images Gary Timlin*



## LILLINGTON LANE – 1900s



Dr. Lachlan Shackleton-Fergus of Australia has submitted these photographs, originally in sepia, which accompany this item; they were taken in the early 1900s are of an excellent quality such as one would be proud of taking today with our modern equipment.

Apparently, they were taken in Lillington Lane, which was probably a connecting way between Lillington and Leamington possibly not too near Leamington where extensive development had by then taken place.

In his book, "Our Old Home", Nathaniel Hawthorn, writes *"I remember such a path, the access to which is from Lovers' Grove, a range of tall old oaks and elms on a hill-top whence there is a view of Warwick Castle. .... It connects Leamington by a short cut with the small neighbouring village of Lillington, a place which impresses an American observer with its many points of contrast to the rural aspects of his own country"*.

This might be the route shown in the photographs, the taker of which is unknown, but they were square format glass slides, perhaps employing one of the better quality bellows cameras

of that era - perhaps a Thornton Picard who seems to have specialised in country scenes in many counties which may have been for postcards but it is likely that these were for his own interest. What a great pity that the scenes illustrated here are no more.



It is good of Dr. Shackleton-Fergus to have provided the photographs for us and if anyone can locate more specifically where they were taken, we should be delighted to hear from them.

*Graham Cooper*

## BUCKLEY ROAD



Named after William Buckley, the manager of the Leamington Waterworks.

The image shows Waterworks Cottage and the well building at the corner of Campion Terrace and Leicester Street. The well still functions, and feeds into the Campion Hills Water Treatment Works in Black Lane. *Image: Mick Jeffs.*

As Leamington Spa developed in the 19th century, the only source of drinking water was the river Leam until a supply of safe drinking water was discovered in Campion Terrace.

The waterworks opened in March 1879. A detached house built on the site became the home of the resident engineer who was responsible for site maintenance and the two pumping engines which enabled water to be stored in the reservoir built on Campion Hills.



In 1891, Isaac Buckley from Southport became the engineer, occupying the cottage with his wife, three sons and four daughters. Their oldest son, William Henry, took over in April 1900. In 1919, after almost twenty years' service, William was granted an increase in wages, raising his income to £3-15s-0d per week.

William Buckley remained as superintendent of the site until 1938, when he was due to retire at the age of 65. His employment was extended for a further year and in 1940, he was recommended for a pension of £163 per annum, to be increased in recognition of 50 years' service.

He died on 27 May 1951, aged 77, having moved to 60 Highland Road, Lillington. Buckley Road was almost certainly named in recognition of his exemplary service at Campion Terrace. *Margaret Rushton*

William Buckley. *Image used with permission from Helen Cunliffe.*

**CORRECTION** The meeting originally scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 will now take place on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

This Newsletter is published by the Lillington Local History Society, c/o Lillington Free Church, Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 7AL. The views expressed in the Newsletter are personal to the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Society