



1922







Kenny
Curtis

Jean
Lomas

Hazel
Barrett

Jean
Elward

Gwen
Smith





Vincent

Van

Gog

Meg
Day

Antonia
Gladdis

Jordan
Day

Emma
Cook

We raised
£55.00 for
Romania.



***	Richard Money	***	Barbara Green	Rosemary Day	Alan Parker	Pat Sheppard	Dick Daniels	***	***
***	Joyce Buckingham	***	Sylvia Dewe	Elizabeth Allam	Jennifer Worth	?Hall	Dinah Dafter	Ann Spurrett	Albert Radband
Donald Rouse	Sunny Pontin	Rosie Brooks	Mary Robinson	Enid Owen	Doreen Ellis	Iris Wheeler	Doris Radband	Nancy Radband	***
***	Terry Sweetenham	David Benedikz	John Ash	George Dixon	Albert Woodley	Bob Brickell	Edward Legard	***	***

School Group
No2









unusual twist on the traditional headmaster-pupil relationship was
reported in the *Oxford Mail* of 12 September 1990. Wally Ryde, Head Teacher
of St. Martin Church of England Primary School, was notorious for sneaking
cigarettes and having a sly puff in the school bike-sheds. He is shown being mobbed
by youngsters in an attempt to shame him into giving up smoking for good. The
money saved by Mr Ryde from not buying cigarettes was donated to the Oxford
District Children's Heart Circle, based at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

Huge rise in eligibility for free school meals

OVER 2,000 children in Oxfordshire became eligible for free school meals during the pandemic, figures show.

The Children's Society described the increase in eligible children as worrying and said the figures highlighted the damaging impact of Covid-19 on struggling families.

Department for Education figures suggest the pandemic led to a spike in the number of youngsters qualifying for free school meals, increasing from 1,505 in autumn 2019 to 2,294 in autumn last year.

The data shows that 12 per cent of all pupils in the county qualified for free meals - 11,585 in total.

April 7th 2022

THROWBACK: Ex-pupils mark 50 years of comprehensive teaching

The Class of '68 goes back to school for special event



'SPECIAL BOND': Cayla Edwards meets a past student; below, former pupils visit their old classrooms

James Roberts

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FORMER pupils and teachers turned back time as a school celebrated its 50th anniversary of comprehensive education.

Half a century ago, Witney schools converted to the comprehensive system from the grammar school and secondary modern structure and Wood Green School held a special event to mark the milestone.

More than 60 pupils from the class of '68 returned for the party, with one, David Le Marquand, travelling all the way from New Zealand, while some of their ex-teachers also attended.

A 'back to school' feel accompanied the festivities, with everyone given an original Wood Green tie and many



people brining memorabilia from their schooldays.

Former teacher Steve Bacon part-organised the event and admitted he was touched by how many of his ex-pupils turned up.

He said: "It was a very special occasion and quite emotional for me to see them all and hear about their lives since Wood Green.

"I'm so glad they all enjoyed the occasion.

"I often think about the class of '68 and never imagined I would see so many of them again."

The celebrations, held on Friday, included performances from the Wood Green Senior Choir and questions from new Year 7 pupils to the first comprehensive cohort.

Tours of the school and the range of memorabilia provided a throwback to the past, with one pupil even bringing

Pictures: Wood Green School

his maths homework 45 years late.

Andrew Pooley, the son of the first Wood Green headteacher, Horace Pooley, gave a speech where he talked about his father's pride in creating a school where everyone felt welcome and valued.

Rob Shadbolt, the current headteacher of Wood Green, echoed the sentiment and paid tribute to the school's ethos.

He said: "It was a privilege to welcome the pupils and teachers of 1968 back to school.

"Although we identified together many changes over the last 50 years, it was clear that the spirit of 1968 and 2018 were exactly the same.

He added: "The fact that people were prepared to travel across the country and even the world to be there showed the special bond that being the first comprehensive cohort created."

SEPTEMBER 26th 2018

End of an era as school shuts for final time



IT WAS a sad day at Filkins as children waved goodbye to their village school for the last time.

Generations of villagers had been taught at the 150-year-old school, which fell victim to

spending cuts in 1981.

Classroom assistant Eileen Wise said: "It is very sad for staff and children and the whole village. It is the end of an era."

The 14 remaining pupils were transferring to the neighbouring village of Langford for lessons.

Miss Junior Teen

A 13-YEAR-OLD has reached the semi-final of Miss Junior Teen Great Britain 2018/19.

Emily Middleton-Bray from Bampton, near Witney, has now set her sights on the grand final at The Globe, Blackpool, in October.

Until then, Emily will raise funds for Together for Short Lives, a charity for children with life threatening or limiting illnesses.







'HELD TO RANSOM': Anger as company says it must pay its drivers

Parents are told they still must pay for school bus

Sophie Grubb

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A COACH company has asked parents to continue paying for school runs even while they are not using the service.

Family-run Rebound has been accused of 'holding parents to ransom' during the coronavirus closures, if they want to keep their child's space.

However, the couple who run the Bampton-based company say it is necessary to ensure the survival of their business through unprecedented times.

Rebound runs coaches taking children to Burford School in West Oxfordshire, and informed parents via email that they would still be required to pay a reduced rate.

Direct debit payments for April will remain the same as usual, but from May un-



PARENTS have been told to pay a reduced rate to keep their places in the future

til further notice, parents will pay £37.50 or £33.75 per month – reduced by 25 per cent from the current rate of £50 or £45, depending on where they live.

However, children of key workers, who are still using the buses during the clo-

sures, will still have to pay the full rate.

Parents can choose to cancel their payments, but their child's seat will then be filled by a pupil from the waiting list.

The email sent to customers said: "We appreciate that this is a difficult time all round but we still have to run, maintain, insure and keep our vehicles in a road worthy condition and pay the drivers ready for the return to normal service, and we cannot do this without your support."

One parent told the Witney Gazette: "The letter holds parents to ransom for a service they can't use, threatening removal of places if payment is not received.

"Money is tight all around for everyone."

Posting on the Spotted Witney Official page on Facebook, another anonymous parent added: "To pay that sort of money every month for a service they will not be using for a foreseeable future

is ridiculous."

However, many of the 100 comments on the post spoke positively of Rebound and in support of the continued payments.

Hannah Giddins commented: "If we don't support the bus company through this difficult time then we may not have a service to go back to when our children go back to school!"

Peter Whitehead, managing director of Rebound, said it was 'upsetting' to read some of the more negative comments.

He said 'no other operator is even considering reductions or refunds'.

Mr Whitehead added: "People bad-mouthing us like this could put us out of business which will also mean we have to put six drivers with families out of work too.

"It's a case of everyone supporting each other."

He also said he would be willing to negotiate with parents.

April 1st 2020





































Michael
Bovington



News

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Nurseries taken over by a French chain

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NURSERIES that look after hundreds of Oxfordshire youngsters have been taken over by a French childcare chain.

The Old Station Nursery group, which has six branches in the county plus an after-school club, has been bought by La Maison Bleue – an international company based 350 miles away in Paris.

Sarah Steel, who founded the Old Station nursery network in 2002, will remain its chief executive and hailed the deal as an ‘exciting development’.

Its Oxfordshire operations run at Oxford Science Park, Bampton, Faringdon, Filkins near Carterton, Henley, Upper Heyford, Watlington, alongside two other nurseries in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire.

La Maison Bleue is one of the largest childcare groups in France and manages about 300 nurseries in the country as well as in neighbouring Switzerland and Luxembourg.

The acquisition of The Old Station Nursery group represents its first foothold in the UK.

Sylvain Forestier, chief executive of La Maison Bleue said: “We have



SARAH Steel at one of the branches of The Old Station Nursery Group

been impressed by The Old Station Nursery’s achievements its business focus on quality childcare.

“We highly value Sarah’s extensive experience in the sector and are

delighted by the prospect of partnering with her and The Old Station Nursery team to create one of the UK’s leading players in the childcare market.

“As our first acquisition in the UK, we are delighted to have taken our first steps into the UK market, and this represented a major development for our organisation.”

Ms Steel added: “We are really pleased to be joining La Maison Bleue, as it allows us to build on all we have achieved over the last 16 years, whilst enjoying the support of a leading company, which is also focused on quality.

“It’s a really exciting move for us all at The Old Station Nursery and we look forward to working closely together.”

Posting on the Old Station website last week, she added: “La Maison Bleue share our passion for really high quality care and are keen to help us to expand within the UK, retaining all that is good about what we do.”

She said the takeover was an ‘exciting development’ but added that it was ‘business as usual.’

This week The Old Station Nursery in Faringdon lodged plans with Vale of White Horse District Council to expand its facilities in Park Road.

It outlines a proposal to expand into a 256sq m disused engine shed outside its premises, once used to house trains.

The nursery hopes to transform it into a baby room, nappy changing room, milk kitchen, sensory room, offices, a staffroom and toilets, and connect it with the existing building. A decision is expected by April 22.

Picture: Mark Hemsworth





BAMPTON
GROUP
VIII



Young walkers step out on 'jungle trek'

Over 250 of the young people of Witney took part on Saturday in sponsored walks in support of Christian Aid Week, organised by the Witney Council of Churches.

Taking a rest after finishing the Christian Aid Walk which started from Wood Green School, Witney, on Saturday.