

Old Dawley & Pool Hill



Compiled by Rev. C. M. Haynes, J.P.

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Foreword

The idea of producing this publication has grown over a number of years. Pool Hill School has a long history since 1846 and I thought it appropriate that a photographic record to record some of the happenings at the School would be appreciated by many local people, especially since our School was burnt down in 1977 and replaced in 1979. This book is not an historical account in the true sense but simply a collection of photographs and other materials that spans about 100 years and shows changes that have taken place in our community. By the nature of things it is bound to be somewhat disjointed but we hope that for the many residents of Dawley and ex-pupils of Pool Hill it will revive memories of the past and we hope bring interest and pleasure.

Revd. C.M. Haynes J.P.
Headmaster.
November 1984

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POOL HILL SCHOOL-

This is the original Pool Hill Schools built in 1846. Abraham and Alfred Darby were interested in the provision of liberal education for the children of their workmen and in the general well-being of their employees. Among the workmen at the Horsehay forge there was a voluntary sick-fund, for which a few coppers a week were collected by one of the men. From an early date it had been the

custom in all parts of the Company's concerns to take a collection for a fellow workman who was prevented by sickness or accident from working, but it was not until 1835 that these *ad hoc* collections were translated into a weekly subscription. About 200 of the men joined the club which proved of value in the next few years. In 1840 Alfred Darby helped to draft a set of rules for

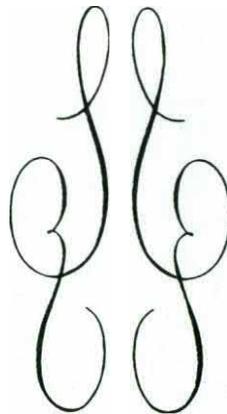
the club and gave to its funds all the fines levied in the works, as well as the half of all deductions made for bad work or under-yield in the forge and rolling mills, in addition to his own subscription on behalf of the company. The club was extended to include the furnacemen at Horsehay and Dawley Castle, and then over all the works, and the collection of weekly subscriptions was undertaken by the office staff, by a deduction from the wages.

The club soon had a substantial fund and, as a surplus over their needs was mounting up, the club agreed to use some of this fund towards the education of their children. Richard Reynolds and Abraham Darby III had built small schools for the miners' children in the eighteenth century, but these were quite inadequate to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing population and the much larger number of employees of the Company. Alfred Darby fitted up a temporary schoolroom in

the large lofts over the stables at Horsehay farm, which, after a short experimental run, proved so successful that he decided to build more suitable premises. The club made a monthly contribution to its running costs so that the men felt that in a measure it was their own venture. In 1846 Alfred Darby built a large school at Pool Hill to serve seven hundred children, so that boys and girls were now able to go to school from an early age. No children were taken into the works until they had completed a satisfactory training in the school, which they were not allowed to leave before the age of twelve.

The school was described in the *Gazette* of Shropshire 1851 as being:-

"A noble pile of buildings, erected at a cost of upwards of £3,500"; what a wonderful investment this was for the children and people of Dawley.

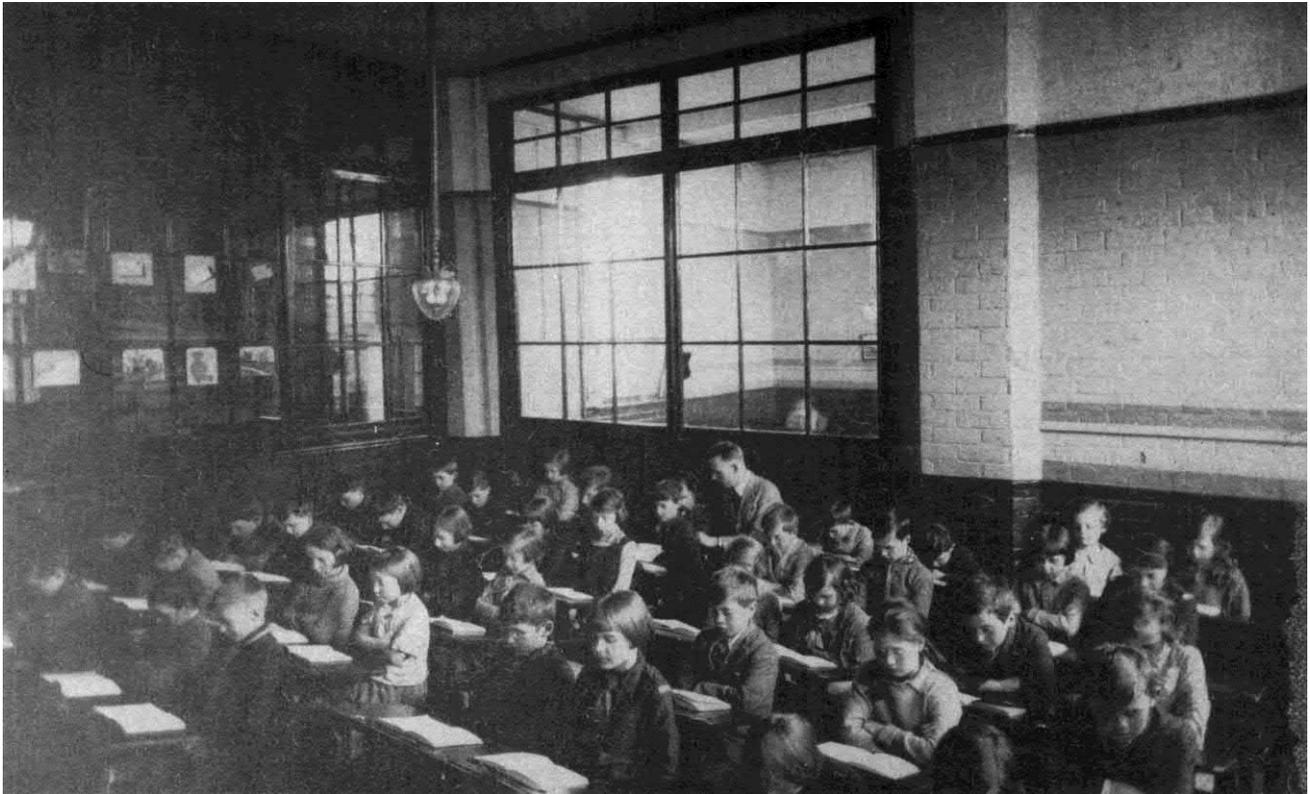




Although Pool Hill was a British (Undenominational) school, it was built of ecclesiastical Gothic styles of architecture using local brick. The central and end sections were unusually elaborate with castellated walls, pinnacled turrets and rectangular mullioned windows. The two-storey central building and the large bell tower with its saddleback roof made a strange combination. The intermediate buildings are quite different in style with high triangular gables and tall pointed mullioned windows, typical of contemporary church schools. All windows have diamond shaped, leaded panes and are protected by hood moulds. The chimney stacks are reminders of classrooms heated by open fires, usually inadequately. The playground was enclosed by iron railings instead of walls like most Shropshire schools. The school had three separate departments - boys, girls and infants.



This photograph was probably taken in Victorian times. The children were wearing boots and black or dark coloured stockings. The boys wore caps. The girls had long hair. Most boys wore dark suits with high-necked white collars. Girls wore longish dark dresses with long sleeves and protected with large white starched pinafores. This photograph was taken before 1900. Notice the castle-like design of the school similar to the Wharfrage Museum in Ironbridge.



Notice the heavy wooden desks in rows; partitioned classrooms (not sound proof), inadequate gas lighting, bare brick walls with dark paint. Dreary and uninteresting.



The Old Hall in Pool Hill School. This Hall holds fond memories for so many children and teachers, with the Plays, Music and Social occasions we all enjoyed. It was burnt down in 1977.



This is a photograph of Mr. White, a Headmaster of Pool Hill, and his staff. Mr. White lived in the School House near the School. Notice the dark formal dress of the teachers and the severe hair styles of the ladies and the stiff starched collars of the gentlemen.

*(Incorrectly named Mr. White, should be Mr. Fredrick Kendall
Reference: Telford Memories,
Gill Egan Smart 17/12/2016)*



A Class of 47 in the Old Pool Hill School. Boys in short trousers and some girls in pinafore dresses. This photograph was taken perhaps some time before 1900.



Top left: A smaller class of 32 infant pupils of Pool Hill with their teacher and pupil teacher in training. The small boys have their white starched collars and the girls their spotless pinafore dresses. Notice the long wooden benches used in school.

Top right: This photograph was taken in the 1930s. Men were formally dressed in suits. Girls now have short, bobbed hair. Man's hair greased and combed flat. The Gentleman in the trilby hat was Mr. W. Pickering, the Head-master, and the other teacher, Mr. Alan Brown. The young lady holding the Netball became Canteen Cook at the Pool Hill Infants School and later at the Captain Webb Primary School.



Bottom left: Shapeless summer dresses. Boys wearing suits or jumpers although it is summer time. A class of 33 with their teacher Mr. Pickering. The boys were wearing suits and ties or jumpers and the girls had sombre dresses.

Bottom right: Edwardian. Skirt with blouse, often with tie, a popular outfit for women teachers. The babies class of 54

and only 1 teacher and pupil teacher. What a task they had, with none of the educational apparatus we have today for

young children. Did they have a slate and slate stick each I wonder? This photograph before 1900 (we think).





Taken early 1930s outside the main entrance. Window on left was Girls' cloakroom. Window on right was spare classroom.



This photograph taken in 1925. Heavy footwear even with summer dresses. Teacher's dress typical of 1920s. Note the aspidistra which would have been brought from the school-room. All the children are well turned out considering the poverty in Dawley at that time.



A class of 35 taken outside the main arched entrance to Pool Hill School. This photograph taken in the 1930s.



Sloping desks with ledges and inkwells. A well dressed eager class of pupils, but not much colour or display on the walls.





Left: Mr. Alan Brown was a teacher at Pool Hill for 41 years. Mr. C.M. Haynes, Headteacher, made the retirement presentation with the School Managers present.

Above: Pupils of Pool Hill School indulging in sand play. Notice the terraced houses below - mainly for workers of the Horsehay Pipe Works. These houses were demolished in the 1970s.



A new Domestic Science building was erected in Pool Hill about 1911. This was a new subject in the Educational timetable. Pupils from a wide area attended on a rota basis. Here is a smartly dressed class ready for their Cookery lesson.



Dawley High Street about 80 years ago. A quiet street when boys and girls could stand safely in the road for their photograph. Hats and caps were certainly in fashion then.



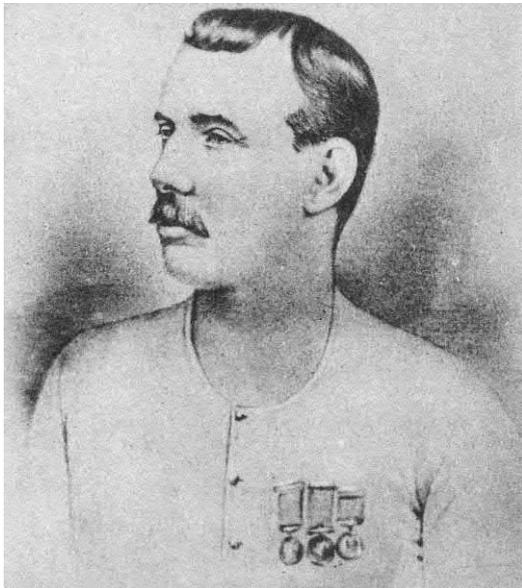
Two photographs of Dawley High Street about the year 1900. Notice the Edwardian dress of the boys and girls.



The Captain Webb Memorial with its beautiful lantern in the High Street. The Memorial has moved around several times since then but has now found a good resting place.

Right: The memorial fountain to Captain Webb. Notice the splendid gas lights on the top.

Below: The best photograph ever taken of Captain Webb wearing his bravery medals. He died in the Rapids of Niagara on 24 July 1883. He was born in Dawley on 19 January 1848, and did a great deal to promote swimming in this country during his life time.



MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN, DAWLEY.

Nothing great is easy. Erected by public subscription to the memory of Captain Matthew Webb, who, in addition to feats of life saving, swam the English Channel. Captain Webb was born at Dawley, January 19, 1848, and lost his life in an attempt to swim Niagara Rapids on July 24, 1883. He was born in a house which formerly occupied a site a few yards from this memorial.



Dawley High Street with the gas lamps and horses and cart. The gentleman in the bowler hat on the left - is he the local doctor or the rent collector? He has time for a chat with the shopkeeper. The boy outside the shop seems to be playing truant and he is certainly very much alone in the street.



The Market Hall in Dawley around the beginning of the Century. The High Street is traffic free apart from the horse and cart. It took about 80 years to return to nearly similar conditions on the same sight where Lloyds Bank now stands.



The High Street in 1960, with lorry traffic coming through. No time now to stop and chat. Everybody seems to be in a hurry.



Another picture of the Coronation in 1911. What splendid hats and waistcoats the gentlemen had. One of the gentlemen is wearing a button hole and gold chain.



The Coronation party of June 2nd 1911. The band leading the procession through Dawley High Street. The Coronation of George V and Queen Mary.

(This top photo is not Dawldy, it is of Broseley.)



Sunday School procession - a great feature in Dawley where there were so many non-conformist Sunday Schools which walked in the order of the date of foundation. I have an extract from the 'Wellington Journal' dated 10 August 1878:

'Dawley Nonconformist Sunday School Demonstration ... this now established and for the third time enacted demonstration was held. Quite an array of scholars. The fifteen schools were marshalled according to their age. The Wesleyan School, Lawley Bank took precedence, having been founded in 1806. The others were Wesleyan Little Dawley, 1813, Wesleyan Horsehay, 1819, Methodist New Connection, Brandlee, 1822, Methodist New Connection, Lawley Bank, 1838, Wesleyan Stirchley, 1840, Primitive Methodist Dawley, 1841, Wesleyan Dawley, 1842, Baptist Dawley, 1846, Wesleyan Old Park, 1852, Primitive Methodist Horsehay, 1859, Primitive Methodist, Lightmoor, 1861, Primitive Methodist, Finger Road, 1863, Methodist New Connection, Lightmoor, 1865, Congregational Dawley, 1866 ... with the 2500 scholars there must have been nearly 300 teachers ...'



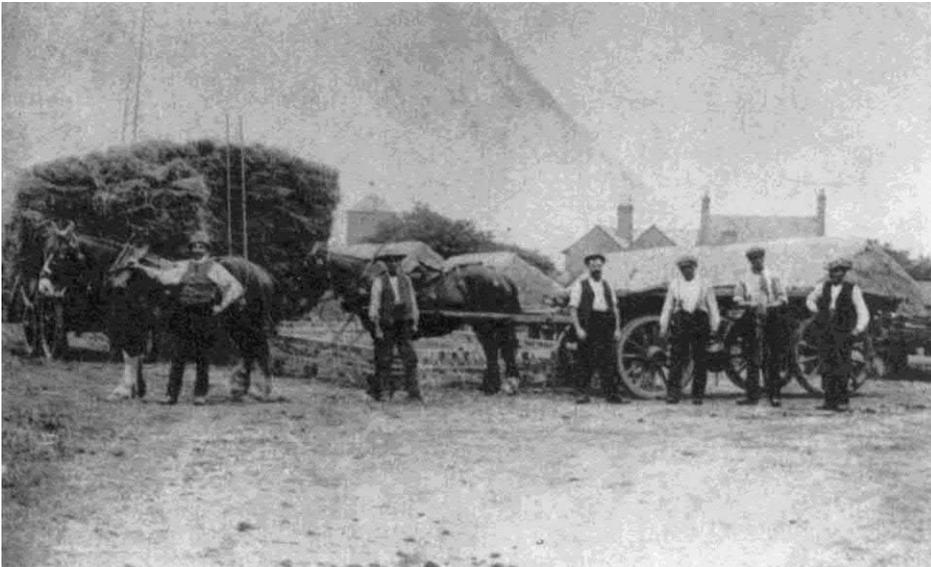
Processions continuing at least to the late 1930s - probably later. (Mrs. Walker, retired Headteacher from St. Leonard's, has, I think, lived in the central area of Dawley all her life.)



Sporadic housing development, often interspersed among the pit mounds, typical of pre- Telford area, and still preserved in some areas.



Mr. Jarvis is the proud fishmonger and greengrocer standing outside his shop in about 1920, with its gas lamp all ready for long opening hours. A superstore now stands on this site.



Although an industrialised area, Dawley continued to have a semi-rural character with mixed farming and even crop growing.



Open air band concerts around the bandstand on Sunday evening, and community hymn singing in the park were popular features of Dawley life until at least 1939.



The well-kept, spacious park was one of the few attractive features of the area and very important for recreation, especially when holidays away from home were unknown to the large majority of the local people.



OLD DAWLEY CHURCH

The Church was originally a chapel, subject to the Church of St. Andrew at Shifnal. It was founded in the 12th century as William the Priest of Dalilea occurs in 1186-7. Bagshaw's Gazetteer of 1851 says:

"The old church stood a little S.E. of the present edifice; it was a small structure of primitive simplicity, and had a short tower at the west end".

Hardwicke's MSS c.1836 states:

"The Church at Dawley is an ancient fabrick of white stone got from a quarry on the spot. The walls are in a very dilapidated state and supported on the south side, in the cemetery, by four massive brick pillars, and one at the east end. At the eastern extremity of the Church are three lancet shaped windows above the Communion

Table. The tower is of the same material of an agreeable and light form, but of a more recent date, in which there is a ring of five bells. At the east end of the church is a large gallery erected in 1820, and within it is a raised loft for the Psalm singers. There is a curious old font with much carving".

The old church was taken down, and the present church of the Holy Trinity was erected in 1845 in the perpendicular style. It consists of chancel with north vestry, nave and aisles, and western tower. There is a large western gallery supported by iron columns.

The church goods return of Edward VI (1553) gives the following information about the Bells and Plate:

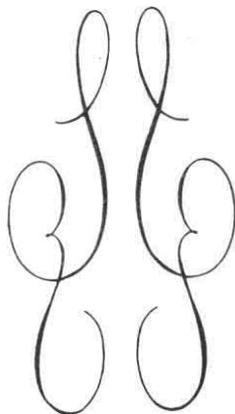
"Thomas Lee, Curate. Thomas Pokle and John Baines, Churchwardens. Three Bells; on chalice of silver with the paten there belonging." The present paten is dated 1582. The Chalice bears the inscription: "The gift of

Mrs. Sarah Morton to the Chapel of Dawley, 1746".

In 1716 the bells were recast by Abraham Rudhall and increased to a ring of five. When the old church was pulled down the bells were taken to Malinslee but the people of Dawley fetched them back and placed them in the tower of the new church. The bells bore these inscriptions:

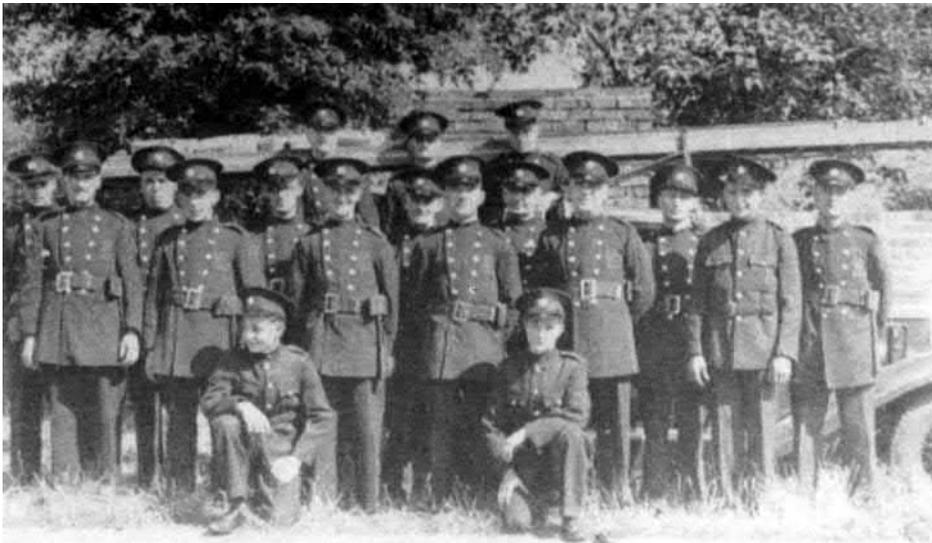
1. When I ring I'll sing sweetly. A.R. 1716
2. Prosperity to all our benefactors. A.R. 1716
3. Peace and good neighbourhood. A.R.
4. Abr. Rudhall bellfounder, 1716.
5. Ralfe Littlehouse and Jeffery Wier, Churchwardens 1716.

In 1906 two bells were recast by Carr of Smethwick and a new tenor "King Edward" was added to the peal.





This picture shows how extensively the school building has been altered and modernised.



The Fire Brigade at Dawley. A large force of well dressed men always ready to answer any Emergency Call.



Pool Hill has always had a tradition for excellent Football teams. Here is an example, with the League Shield and Cup.



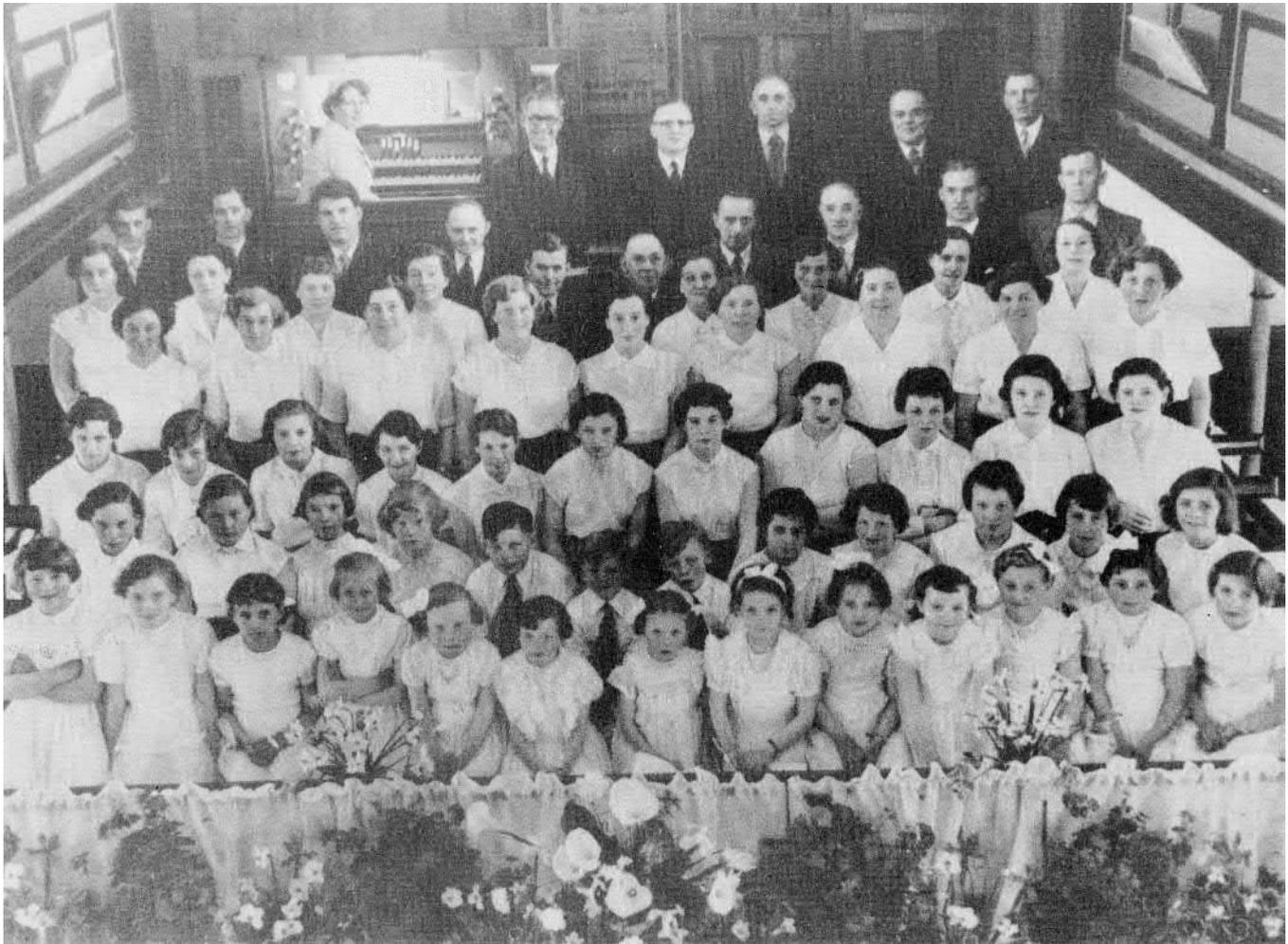
And here the 2nd XI (1939) side.



This is the Round House in Horsehay Potteries. Although round outside it was square inside. The ladies carrying buckets are a Mrs. Davies and a Mrs. Dale. Like so many housewives they worked hard from early morning to late at night providing for their families.



Dawley High Street before the days of the pedestrian precinct.



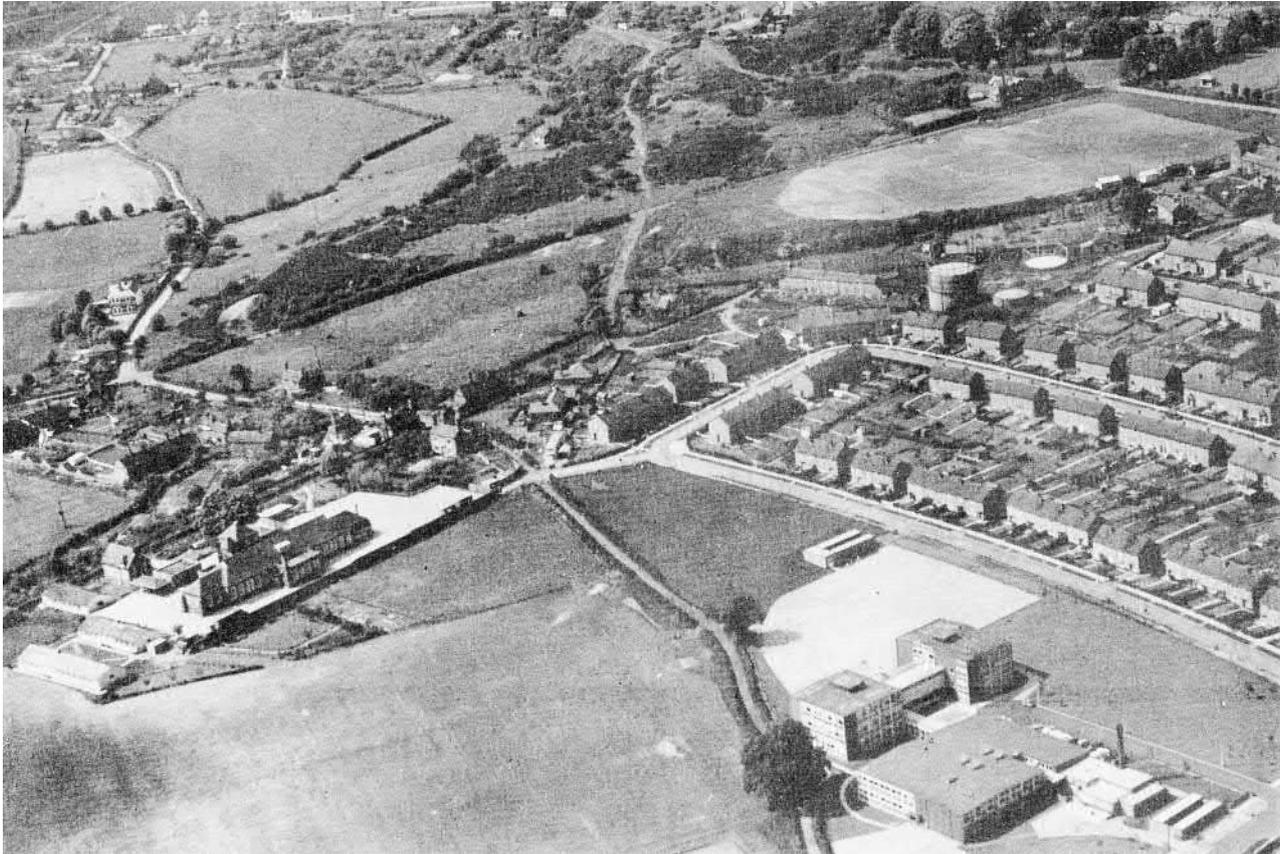
The Anniversary Sunday at Dawley Bank Baptist Chapel in 1957. All the women and girls dressed in white and enjoyed a day of Singing and Praise to God. It was held on the last Sunday in April each year.



A happy, healthy-looking assembly of Secondary pupils when Pool Hill was an all age school, before the days of the Phoenix Comprehensive.



Another well dressed group, of the same period.



The changing face of Pool Hill, Horsehay and Dawley (1961). The houses in Webb Crescent were built in the 1950s. A gas holder stood in what is now Princess Anne Gardens. Dawley Modern School became the Phoenix and then extended. The road from Horsehay—Pool Hill Road and Pool Hill which ran behind the school disappeared to make a total school campus. Webb Crescent became the main road. There was no by-pass. The council field was much larger. The kiln (the round house) was still at Horsehay. The railway (top left) was still in use. Much development since 1961. The route of the old tramway to Brandlee can be seen in the centre of the picture.



The Bath Spout Doseley. This spring was a well-known beauty spot. The water was drinkable and many women collected water. The spout was on the land of the Bath Spout Farm — long since gone.



King Street, Dawley as it was; before modernised houses and a car park.



Expert cyclist all ready for a long distance ride from Dawley High Street.



The Coronation Party in 1953 held at Malmslee Church Hall. All Dawley children were invited.



Pool Hill has always had a strong musical tradition and here is the school choir of 1932. Many excellent musical concerts have been performed by pupils over many years.

**POOL-HILL SCHOOLS,
DAWLEY**

Evening Concert,

ON EASTER-MONDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1868.

To commence at 8 o'clock.

Unreserved Seat, 1s.

The proceeds will be devoted towards establishing a
WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND, in connection
with the Foresters' Court, "Prince of Wales," held at the
Elephant and Castle Inn, Dawley.

CAPTAIN WEBB CENTENARY CONCERT

at Captain Webb Primary School

on Thursday 23rd. June 1982

at 7.30 p.m.

given by

HADLEY ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR

and

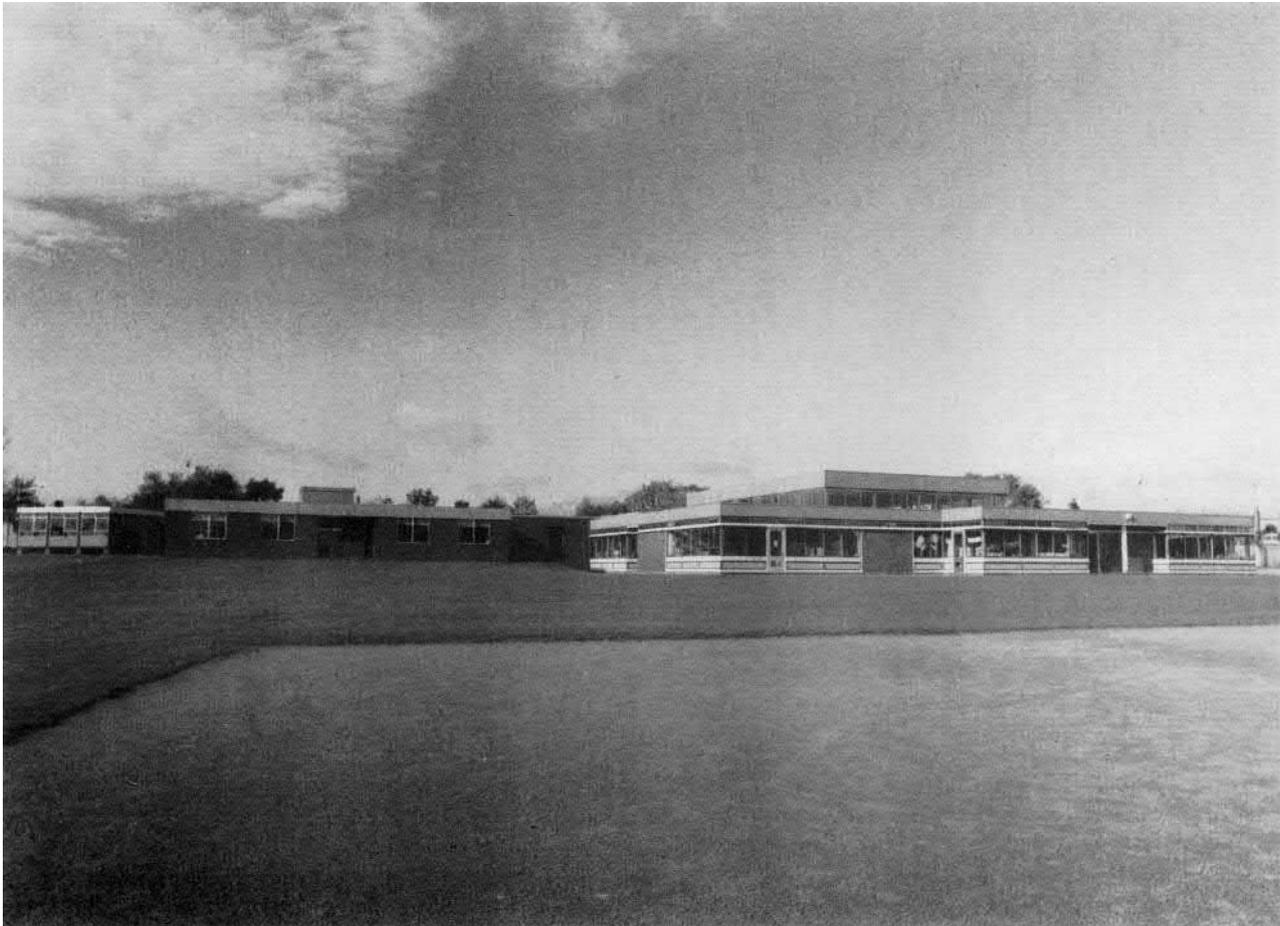
CAPTAIN WEBB SCHOOL CHOIR

Tickets 75p

Just two examples of tickets
for Pool Hill School Evening
Concerts in 1868 and 1982. It
shows the long musical
tradition of the School..



Sad pictures of Pool Hill School after the fire in August 1977. This building was demolished and the present Captain Webb School extended to accommodate extra pupils.



The modern day Pool Hill Primary now called the Captain Webb Primary School since 1979. It has pupils of Nursery, Infant and Junior school ages. The Pool Hill, Captain Webb School has cared for and educated children since 1846. It has always been a happy school with children, teachers, parents and school governors working together as a team. We all wish them well in the years ahead.



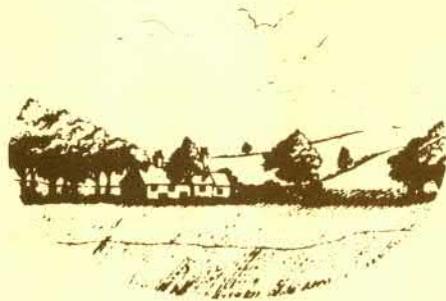
Pool Hill School, Dawley, 1890



Old Dawley High Street and
the Captain Webb Memorial.



High Street, Dawley.



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