



Port Isaac School pupils, teachers and staff, 1975

In 1977, the old school closed and it moved up to a brand new, purpose built building on Mayfield Road. It was a sad day for many. The old school really was ‘the heart of the village’ -

“It was a daily meeting place for mums (and dads) when they met their children from school, it added to the hustle and bustle of daily life.”

options ...

In the 1930s and 1940s, Miss Violet Neale, wife of John Neale, ran a private school in their home, Jessamine Cottage, on Rose Hill. Family memories recall that the Remick girls, Marge (Mewton) and Kate (Townsend) both helped with the teaching here. Mr and Mrs Neale had no children and they also kept lots of beehives in their garden -

“lovely honey if you were lucky enough to get a pot” Yvonne Cleave



There was also Garfield House School on The Terrace, a Dame School (a private elementary school usually run by elderly women in their own home) owned by Miss Benwell Nalder who was the headmistress and the only teacher. This school probably closed in the early 1950s as records show Miss Nalder moved to live at the top of Church Hill. Margaret Gorsky (nee Sproull) remembers,

“The lessons all took place in the front room with the bay window. In the dining room at the back there was a piano where Miss Nalder played when we had singing lessons. We never went to play outside and there were around twelve pupils, usually more boys than girls.”

Regulations.

1.—Each pupil should have :—

- (a) Pair canvas shoes with rubber or crepe soles.
- (b) Gymnasium tunic (blue serge with white blouse).
- (c) Navy blue serge long coat.
- (d) School cap, for winter; Panama with School band, for summer.

2.—Pupils from a distance may bring their lunch.

School Fees.

Under 10 years, £2 2s. 0d. Over 10, £3 3s. 0d. per Term.
Weekly Boarders, £10 10s. 0d. Termly, £12 12s. 0d.
Tuition Fees are payable in advance.
A Term's notice, in writing, is necessary to the removal of a pupil, or payment of a term's Fee will be required.

Attendance and Terms.

Daily (except Saturdays) 9.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
The Year is divided into three Terms with mid-term break.
Regular and punctual attendance is expected and is absolutely necessary in the interests of the pupil and of the School. A letter from parent explaining absence or asking permission or absence, is asked for.
The School Course includes Scripture, Reading, Writing, Algebra, Arithmetic, French, English Composition, Literature, History, Geography, Class Singing, Drawing, Needlework and Drill.

EXTRAS.				
Latin	...	...	...	£1 1 0 per Term.
Pianoforte	...	...	...	£1 1 0 "
Mandoline	...	...	...	£1 1 0 "
Guitar	...	...	...	£1 1 0 "
Painting—Oils or Water Colours	...	...	...	£1 1 0 "
Elocution	...	...	...	£3 3 0 "
Hockey or Tennis	...	...	...	10/- the Season.

Pupils prepared for Associated Board, Trinity College, Royal Academy.



1920s/30s Port Isaac School Choir with three trophies they had won

S.T. ENDELLION SCHOOL BOARD.

The seriously increasing decline of late in the School attendance is a matter which the Board feel they must rigorously deal with. The registers give the following highly creditable results for December.

MIXED SCHOOL:—Out of 185 Scholars, only 121 present on an average, or 65 per cent.

In other words, out of every three scholars hardly two attending. During one week the average attendance in one of the higher standards was actually less than one scholar out of every two.

INFANTS' SCHOOL:—Out of 87 Scholars, only 44 present on an average, or 51 per cent. In other words, only one Scholar attending out of every two.

In November and December of the previous year in precisely similar circumstances, the average attendance was—

Mixed School	86 per cent.
Infants' School	77 per cent.

This means that the decrease on this year for December alone, as compared with last year, makes a Government Grant loss of about £12; and to balance this loss ratepayers will have to pay a penny in the pound extra in one of their coming rates. N.B.—Simply for bad School attendance in one month!

Going on like this for a whole year, a total grant loss would be incurred of nearly £150, equal to One Shilling in the pound extra in the year's rate.

Ratepayers (including the parents) are urged to do their utmost to assist the Board in removing this reproach, and bring their influence to bear on offending parties. Children are often seen openly playing about, either in the streets or on the beach, when they should be in School. The Board are determined that if there be not a great and steadily maintained improvement in the attendance after the School Holidays, stringent measures shall be taken to enforce it.

R. JULYAN GEORGE, Chairman.
H. H. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

Port Isaac,
22nd Dec., 1902.

QUINTRELL & Co., PRINTERS, WADEBRIDGE.

The majority of the local children went to the old School:

“... the school was just up the road and in the winter at playtime my Auntie used to come up with a cup of cocoa ... the school milk was put in a tin bath of water and put on the tortoise stove to heat up when it was very cold ... Mr Button from Trewetha Farm used to deliver the milk ...” Peter Rowe

One teacher was Miss Best who came from St Breward on her motorbike.

“Miss Best loved geraniums and she had them all around the windows ... full of greenfly, so Miss Best would light woodbines and put them in the earth for the smoke to go up to the plant to kill the greenfly.” Yvonne Cleave

“... Miss Best would hit me across the back of my hand with that ruler ... it wasn't the flat end of the ruler it was the edge, right across my knuckles.” Joan Murray

taken from THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC