

# WANDERING IN TALBOT VILLAGE

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ISBN-0-906287-61-8

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# WANDERING IN TALBOT VILLAGE

A STUDY OF PHILANTHROPY IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

MILDRED GILLETT

BOURNEMOUTH LOCAL  
STUDIES PUBLICATIONS

1985

No. 679

*Best wishes to a  
new Talbot Village, Poole,  
Annette Gillett*



Park Road (now Alton Road) showing Talbot Village Boundary Stone



The Almshouses

from heaps stacked by the roadside.

A Miss James lived in the next house (992). She was a recluse and was never seen. She died some time in the 1950's at the age of 93 years.

No information could be found about the occupiers of the next house (990). Polk named Cutler lived there as first inhabitants and they were followed by the Mussel family. W. Mussel worked for the Bournemouth Corporation as a roadsweeper.

The next house (988), by the land leading into White Farm in the hinterland, is occupied today by a descendant of the second tenants. First the Collins, now the Holloways. It is reported by an octogenarian that the Holloways had a farm where the Church now stands. When Miss Talbot bought the Church land the Holloway sons used the bricks from the farmhouse to build on the 2-acre plot adjacent to the King's Arms' in Wallisdown Road. An interesting building point was that the bricks were laid on edge thus giving a 3" instead of a 4½" width. They were cement rendered, then blackened with a waterproof mixture.

A family called Cousins occupied the house (986, on the other side of the land. The last member became blind and left. The house was allowed to fall into disrepair and vandals completed its complete disintegration. A few bricks indicate the foundations but nature has taken over and created a wilderness.

During the First World War (1916) an aeroplane landed in the garden of the next house (984) which was occupied by a family called Rabbetts. The daughter of the family was a member of the first netball team at the school.

Despite the taboo on trade on the estate, the next house (985) had an extra piece built on for a shop and bakehouse. The occupants were a large family named Bishop. W. Bishop did his baking during the morning and made two deliveries during the afternoon. Almost every member suffered from tuberculosis and many of the senior local people can recall their wan faces and jet black hair as they delivered bread from open baskets throughout the area. A daughter, Adelaide, was a member of the School netball team. A nonagenarian states that in her days at Talbot Village School the boys would sprint to the shop at playtime and buy five Garibaldi biscuits for a halfpenny as well as "nancy balls" (aniseed balls, sweets). The garden seems extra fertile for

in October 1975 the pear tree was in its second bloom of the year. There is a particularly beautiful bole of a sweet chestnut tree in the boundary fence of the house overlooking the entrance to the site of the new Dorset Institute of Higher Education. This entrance has been made by cutting a way through the protective belt of pine trees bordering the road, and as a result the cottagers are finding their more tender crops are suffering from weather conditions.

Again we reach a lane. In the early days this led to Talbot Farm (later known as Slades' Farm) but now that way is deflected and the only route leads to the School, Almshouses and the Church. Adjoining the lane is the house (982) where the Sexton used to live. The third inhabitant was a man of character, named Mr. George Bridle. He was gardener to the churchyard, which was smaller than today. He kept the lawns completely weed free (Lady's Tresses orchids might be found there by those who knew where to seek) and a constant watch was maintained over the sweet chestnut trees which grew there. Woe betide any early or late schoolchild who hoped for nuts. Mr. Bridle kept a dog cart, available for hire, and a horse and van. In the days of Voluntary Hospitals, the fund-raising Hospital Sunday was a great occasion. There was a gift service for children in the afternoon, and, following this, out would come the horse and van, all the gifts would be piled aboard and the horse clip-clopped to Boscombe Hospital and to the Royal Victoria one in Poole Road. Mr. Bridle was back in time for Evensong which was held in the Churchyard on the site of the present Little Church; the congregation being too large for the Church. Music was supplied by the Kinson Prize Band and collecting boxes were filled by the crowds which lined the marching route to Church. Somehow, Hospital Sunday was always fine, and the closing hymn was always "At even, ere the sun was set". In service time the Sexton acted as a kind of Beadle. In those days the Sunday School children always sat at the back and a hard unfriendly poke was given to any chatterer.

Next door there were no hedges or trees to act as a screen; the garden was always on show. Mr. Barnes lived here (980) and grew daffodils in all his borders. His annual rent was paid from the sale of daffodils at 3d. per dozen. He was apparently unable to write for there is in existence his Will marked with a cross instead of a signature. He was a fitter of pipes on the estate.

The next house (977) borders School Lane. This is directly opposite to Talbot Village Farm. By contrast with

Mr. Barnes' this house is completely hidden by high hedges. There used to be a medlar tree growing in the garden, and the medlars could be bought at five for a penny. The first inhabitant was a Harry Carter who was a painter for the estate. Two married daughters succeeded him.

On the other side of School Lane lived the Baverstocks (975). They were related to the Kerleys, the first schoolmaster to the Village School. They appeared to have no family to continue with the tenancy of the cottage, and the next occupant was a W. Hawkins who among other duties on the estate would cut wood from behind the schoolhouse, and maintain a regular supply for the residents in the Almshouses.

Next comes a tied cottage (972) to house workers at the farm opposite. The first tenant was a Mr. Drew who worked for the farm tenant, a Mr. Leidlaw who ran jobbing stables and used the land as paddocks in 1888/89. His granddaughter is one of our local librarians.

The house by the letterbox was built later than the others in 1872. Its need was not apparent until the Church was in being and an organist had to be housed. The frontage is small compared with the normal village house and the space behind was less, too, for the tenant was blind Mr. Callop. He was succeeded as organist by his daughter 'Lizzie'. She supplemented her salary by acting as Postmistress at Wallisdown on a site near the Kings Arms public house. She married an out-of-the-area man and left the district. By this time the music requirements of the Church necessitated a qualified performer and no longer did the organist dwell in the Village. The house then became available for the caretaker at the school.

Research brought to light the following concerning the Kinson Prize Band. "Passing through the Village at night, sounds of brass band practice at the school were heard. Old residents waxed eloquent on the powers of Bill Saunders on the euphonium and Dave Gillett with his cornet".

The Church grounds separate the last two cottages (965) from the others. A family called Isaacs lived next and other than knowing that they turned part of the back garden into a grass tennis court during the First World War, little is known of them. The house is now occupied by the Verger of the Church which he reaches by a footpath from his back garden across the churchyard. A very old resident tells me that Mr. Isaacs was completely bald and always wore a bowler hat.

The last of the main road cottages (965) is on the corner of Alton Road which marks the Western boundary of the Talbot estate. Locally the corner is known as "White Stone Corner" for the obvious reason that it is marked by a stone with the words "Talbot Village" facing to the West. It is not surprising that newcomers to the area often overlook the fact that they have passed through the Village because the stone is set into the bank and the lettering, though cut into the Purbeck stone, is not painted black. The modern nameplate marking Alton Road distracts the eye from the inconspicuous stone.

Prior to 1925 the side boundary road was known as Park Road. This was unlighted and without footpaths. The corner house in Wallisdown was built in 1924; before then there was a sycamore tree marking the corner. The tenant of the cottage was a Mr. Legg. He was noted as a gardener who never stopped work, no matter how wet or cold the weather. The front was more open in his day and there were three spectacles each year. First a sea of daffodils under the trees, they were all double ones, then in the beds round the house came first marguerites to be followed in later summer with many coloured lupins.

The land at the back ran parallel with Park Road and was easy to view. Barring space for fowls and fruit trees near to the house, the land was divided lengthwise into three strips. They were used in rotation, one for mixed vegetables, one for corn (wheat) and the other for trifolium incarnatum. The latter was a never-ending delight to the nearby people for the long crimson heads were in perpetual motion in the very exposed spot.

In the 1930s a part of the garden was separated from the north end of both the Legg's and Isaac's garden to provide a site for a Vicarage. St. Mark's became a separate Ecclesiastical parish in 1919. The first vicar was the Rev. Benjamin Robert Clutterbuck who had previously been Priest-in-Charge under the Vicar of St. Andrews, Kinson. Mr. Clutterbuck was especially fond of children and it was quite usual to find him followed by a dozen or more small children because at intervals he would turn round and scatter a handful of sweets which had to be scrambled for. Being a bachelor, the Vicar was unwilling to take up residence in the Vicarage, so a Curate used it for a time. When he left, the People's Warden occupied it until such time as a new Vicar the Rev. A. J. Caton, arrived and took possession. The initiative for the building of the Vicarage came from a Church

member, Mrs. Wanstall, who lived outside the Parish.

There are four other cottages (930) on the estate. These are at the 'back' of the Village, that is on the north side at the school playground. The first was occupied by Mr. Sims who used to sell eggs at the door. They lived out their lives at a son's house in Alma Road, Bournemouth.

Again, I am indebted to Mr. Fred Bartlett for the following:

"Mrs. Sims was inclined to be aloof and staid, her home, her church, filled her life completely." (Actually she was also an active member of one of the earliest of the Women's Institutes). "She was a long-standing member of the Parochial Church Council. Her husband Bill, was a stone-mason, I think, but I remember him best for his expertise as a grower of dahlias, and as a good shot with an air rifle."

The Taylors lived next door (931). They had a one-man dairy business and Mr. Taylor would be seen doing his own delivery of milk. This took the form of two pails suspended from a wooden yoke on his shoulders and a measure slung on the side of the can. Milk was delivered direct into the jug with a splash. Mrs. Fanny Bartlett was five months short of 100 when she died. She had been a widow for some time and as a child I can recall her tiny figure walking up the church aisle clothed all in black with flowing widow's weeds.

The last of this trio was occupied by the Bartlett family and it is from the son of the house, Commander P. W. G. Bartlett, O.B.E., R.N. that I have the following information and observations. "I would like to make a few remarks about the woods and heathland known as 'the Common'. This common is part of Talbot Village Estate, thus private property. It used to be acres of purple heath in summer with dense gorse bushes scattered about willy nilly fashion. The scent in Spring was an indefinable something that I can recall to this day. The variety of wild life in the relatively small area was exceptional; the red squirrel was plentiful in the 1920's, the Dartford Warbler (known as a 'Fuzzy-acker') was a common bird on the gorse, wrens (including the gold-crested wren) were to be seen at any time as were wagtails and some warblers. At about sunset on fine summer evenings the call of the nightjar could be heard quite often. Grasshoppers, lizards and snakes could be found without much difficulty in the abundant heather in summertime. Grasshoppers in particular would leap away

ten or twelve at a time as one walked through the heather. Few people today will remember the large numbers of bats which could be seen during fine summer evenings amongst the trees bordering the area which used to be known as "the backs", i.e. the pathway running at the rear of the houses bordering the lower end of Wallisdown Road. The path is still there, but the bats are not".

Mr. Bartlett gives interesting facts of family history concerned with the occupation of Rose Cottage. His father, Fred, was born in the cottage in 1884, his parents having been the earliest occupants. "Young Fred" had to relinquish the tenancy in 1977 when he could no longer make it his permanent, only, home. He says that prior to 1939 changes of tenancy in the Village were rare, generation succeeding generation for many years. When vacancies occurred in the almshouses, tenants from the cottages were given a first option.

During his boyhood (remember he lived 'next door') he says the tenants of the almshouses were well known and were a part of the Church community. He describes a Mr. Smithson and his wife who could have stepped straight out of the Victorian era. "A well-built, upright and healthy man whose favourite suit consisted of heavy tweed trousers with matching waistcoat and cloak, his hat a deer-stalker. To these were added highly polished boots and a silver-topped walking stick. He had been an employee of Canon Sharp - Vicar of Kinson - the gardener, I think, because occasionally he gave valued help and advice on gardening to my father".

An interesting account of a boy's view of the Rev. B. R. Clutterbuck is given by Mr. Bartlett. He was curate, and after 1919 Vicar of St. Mark's Church. Mr. Bartlett explains how his family linked with the Curate because of his parents' interest in and work for the Church and Sunday School. His mother taught in the Sunday School for many years and raised funds for it by organising and producing plays and concerts.

The Rev. Clutterbuck was a bachelor whose meal arrangements could be haphazard because of his large Parish and his lack of personal transport. He seemed always to walk. He used to come to us for tea on Sundays after the regular afternoon children's service; it gave him an opportunity to rest before Evensong. Other occasions included breakfast after early Communion on Sundays (the second and fourth Sundays each month). Looking back I think he influenced me a lot as a result of meal-time gatherings - he could be a very good raconteur. I consider his Sunday

afternoon Children's Services were unique - they were also the occasion of Christenings - with their occasional guest speakers - missionaries from the Third World."

The only other cottage of the original set was overlooking School Lane, and was the local Police House. An early recollection is of bluff, burly Mr. Cross whose four children were already adult when I passed that way. He was succeeded in 1918 by another family man who was well liked not only for his duty as an upholder of the law, but also for many kindly acts towards those in need of guidance. It is reported that on one occasion he apprehended a thief, who had used metal tips, such as were put on the toes and heels of boots to increase their wearing qualities, to prise open the Freewill Offering Box in the Church. He then had to collect his bicycle and march the prisoner to the Police Station at Wimborne - the nearest lock-up - and ride home to continue his duties. Of late years the house had been occupied by the Agent to the Estate.

Having housed some 126 persons, Miss Talbot then planned for their mental and spiritual welfare and made provision for those no longer able to work.

## 2. THE SCHOOL

The School is of white brick and had diamond leaded panes to the windows, similar to those of the houses.

It was built in 1862 and endowed eleven years later by the sister of the foundress. It had a spacious schoolroom and was well lighted to the North and South. It provided a lodging for the family of the schoolmaster and an acre of garden. At that time there were 63 children in attendance. They were instructed in the 3Rs - Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - and the girls had an additional subject, needlework. A Sunday School, limited to 50, was held in the building without any form of heating. "The daily schools admit religious instruction but only from the Bible explained" - Quote from "The History of Talbot Village".

The Deed of Settlement in 1887 included a sum of £66 "so long as the portrait of Georgina Charlotte Talbot shall be hung in the schoolroom and the inscription kept".

Sunday service was held in the schoolroom before the Church was built. The bell tower above the schoolroom may have been for an early call to worship as well as a signal to schoolchildren. The services were always held in daylight for there were no policemen on the moor and dark heathland, and it would have been dangerous to have young children at risk while the householder was away.

The first headmaster was Samuel Kerley. He had a son 'Young Sam' and a daughter. Young Sam became People's Warden and lived 98 years. He tolled the bell at the first service in the Church; at Miss Talbot's funeral. There is a Memorial Tablet to his memory in the Church.

The first Log Book records "Classroom 56'8" long by 14' wide. Height to wall plate 16'8". Cubical allowance made for pitch of roof 3168' cu. Area accommodation for 232 children. Signed: Headmaster."

He continued by stating. "Upon taking charge of this School in October 1877 I found the school in the charge of an uncertificated teacher and unprovided with a Log Book, Summary and Admission Register and other necessary material. The children were in a backward state as far as Arithmetic was concerned. None of them knew the Multiplication Table thoroughly and some knew nothing at all



St. Mark's School with Inscription:  
This School House was built by G.C.Talbot 1862  
and Endowed by M.A.Talbot 1873



St. Mark's School with modern extension



Standard I Talbot Village School 1913



The School Netball Team 1919  
 Annie Saunders Miss G Price Adelaide Bishop  
 Lily Gillett Winifred Flower Caroline Budden  
 Joyce White Ida Collins

about it, yet I found a number of them dabbling in money sums. I was obliged to take the whole school to the very beginning and work them forward".

Almost the first entry in October 1877 records an alteration in fees by order of the Trustees.

"The children who do not belong to Talbot Village pay 3d. each except where there are more than two children from the same family. The fees would then be 3d. for the first, 2d. for the second, and 1d. for each of the others."

The early Log Books of the school provide many side-lights on the life of the times; its social history and climatic conditions. Early photographs show the changes in fashion. In 1886 the girls wore pleated dresses and hair was drawn back severely from the face. The boys wore knickerbockers and the coats were fitted under Eton type collars. Ten years later, 1896, the girls had waisted dresses and there were signs of the bustle. Frilly pinafores were worn and the hair styles were becoming softer. By 1902 boys were beginning to show their knees and the sleeves were widening so that a still later picture shows even more frills on the pinafores, leg-of-mutton sleeves and boys with knees fully exposed.

Could we today envisage snowfall so heavy as to bring the attendance down to three or four? This happened in 1881. In 1976 we enjoyed a record summer; how many school attendances were lost as a result of the heat? In July 1897 there was an entry that poor attendance was no doubt due to the extreme heat. A year later Winter had taken its toll for it is recorded that "two little girls were withdrawn for the Winter". Was this inability to pay school fees, lack of adequate clothing, either for the journey to and from school, or for the dubious amount of heat in school, or because of the state of the mud-track roads? The record does not state. The calendar, rather than the temperature, decreed when heating was to be available. This heating was one open fire in a room 56' by 14' by 16'!

There was an interesting titbit in 1898, by which time there appears to have been extra space in which to house the infants. We learn that "The Headmaster of the Mixed School very kindly had THE fire lit in his room for the little ones". Was there no fireplace in the infant area? Maybe they were housed in a gallery by then.

The Inspectorate were very persistent in visiting and there were frequent references to space requirements; 8 square feet was the norm. In 1891 there were 121 older children in a space for 99. Plans had to be approved by the Department (of Education). Only one year later there is official praise for the enlargement of the building. No plans of the extension of the 19th century building are available to show the early, steady growth of the building. One point stands out; when the Department pronounced, something happened much more rapidly than at the present time. Of course, the Trustees paid, except in the matter of glazing. In 1894 H.M.I. states "There is no division between offices for the two sexes. A separate exit direct from the schoolroom to the girls' offices should be provided. The rooms glazed with 6½" panes which impede the light should be replaced with large glass windows". Later in the year it is pointed out that the "small panes rest upon the Education Department" and a letter sent to Mr. McWilliam.

From then until 1902 there seems to have been continuous difficulties with a rising Roll and H.M.I. made a peremptory statement in 1898 that "My Lords will expect to receive without delay revised plans, etc. etc.", but they were successful in their expectations for by 1900 the Gallery had been built and altered and a large excellent Classroom built. This was followed two years later by another new room for infants. The Log Book reports:

"New term, 92 on books. We are so full it is a trial to teach them. The only change we can give them is to stand the first class on their seats. Met the Correspondent who is most displeased. He hopes to visit, examine, and dismiss some children".

At the end of the month we find that the visit had taken place and as a result three children are admitted to the Mixed Department and eleven are dismissed. How the selection was made is not stated. In September 1902 we find an entry:

"School closes for one month. A new room is being erected for the infants and it is necessary to pull down some of the old walls".

One or two weather records are noteworthy: "15th September 1898 a violent thunder storm, only one child came to school".

"25th October 1901, we have a fire lit nearly all the week".

That was the year when a heavy fall of snow in February caused a "small" school. There appears to have been a Spring drought in 1919 for there is mention in May of the loss of the school crops because of 48 days without rain. An entry of the 8th April 1921 mentions a lesson on an Annular Eclipse visible here (Friday) from 8.45 - 11.05. "Weather clear. At the greatest obscuration, 9.45, the temperature was 18 degrees colder than at 11.10".

Infectious diseases caused frequent and lengthy closures of school. Scarletina and Measles are the more frequently mentioned but Whooping Cough and Diphtheria took their toll, too. Measles appeared particularly prevalent in April 1862 for there is an entry that "Almost every family has a Measles victim". A bad epidemic of Scarletina in 1887 kept the school closed from October to January. In 1902 it was closed for one month for building operations and in the same year Measles caused another month's closure. There was a six weeks' closure for Measles in 1914. Deaths are recorded but the cause is not always stated.

Exclusions took place for verminous heads in 1918 (just before the bobbed hair style was adopted).

The school had its share of accidents. We find "an infant with a fractured shoulder, having fallen out of a tree: a boy having seven front teeth knocked out after being pushed from a desk: a boy broke an elbow". The latter had his name removed from the Register, presumably this was because grant was paid on average attendance not on roll average, as today.

There were other reasons for the removal of a name from the register. 1885. "Two boys expelled three months ago because the parents were summoned, were re-admitted." In 1909. "A girl detected in the act of theft had her name removed from the register, subject to the approval of the Managers". This entry was signed by the Correspondent but there is no further reference to it so presumably the Managers did approve. In 1920 Caddy Masters in Meyrick Park were informed that they were breaking the law by engaging boys who should be at school.

The payment of school fees presented problems for in 1881 we find a somewhat tart entry referring to competition and fees.

"Twenty nine names removed from the register. 27 children have gone to a new school opened by Miss X and Rev.Y in a cottage at Highmoor. Several have left owing considerable school fees".

This was in February and in September we find that a girl has been sent home for arrears in school fees of 1s.1d.

"I have considerable trouble to prevent parents from running up arrears of fees to a comparatively large amount and in a few cases, children have left school owing large amounts, which have never been paid, so devoid are those parents of high principle and common honesty."

By 1890 the Talbot Boys' Home was built and the first ten admissions to school were recorded in September as being from the Home for Waifs and Strays.

#### CURRICULUM, DISCIPLINE AND OTHER PROBLEMS

Had you been a child in school in the late 19th century how would you have spent your time in the "good" or "thin" school, according to whether attendance was good or bad? You would have been instructed in Grammar and Arithmetic following a rigid timetable and the infants would be using slates and copybooks. H.M.I.s frowned on any deviation from timetable. In June 1884 they commented that at their visit they found the timetable being followed except for the infants who were "engaged in slate work instead of painting". They returned in September, this time to find the unfortunate infants using slates instead of copybooks.

The infants' Object Lessons Syllabus must be of especial interest to the teachers of today. For a complete year's work the little ones studied:

Maize, Millet, Oats, Barley, Wheat, Rye, Date,  
Orange, Fig, Vine, Peach, Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton,  
Deer, Eagle, Goose, Hare, Heron, Hedgehog.

Standard III studied:

Lucifer Matches, Glass, Nile Campaign (with the boats), Sudan, Parts of Speech, Counties of England, Towns and Ports of England, Army, Navy, English Rivers, Manufactures, Commerce.

Standard IV-VII as above.

1889. In October the Poetry Syllabus is of interest. For the work of one year Standard I studied "Little Jim", Standard II "Lucy Gray", Standard III "The Wreck of the Hesperus", Standard IV "The May Queen", Standard V "Marmion", Standard VI, VII, VIII "The Tempest". A year later Standard I learnt "The Father's Return", II "The Spring Walk", IV "The Idle Shepherd Boy", V-VII "Othello".

This is the type of education which was provided generally throughout country villages at that period. Some children were more fortunate than others, for 30 plots of 1 rod each were marked out in 1902 and thus came about the beginning of gardening and banking for some boys. Seed was supplied by the School and when the crops were harvested and sold seed costs were returned to school and the plot owner was allowed to keep the remainder. To the careful observer the site of these garden plots can be identified opposite to the Agent's house, where there is a three-sided border of self-sown trees enclosing land which has gone out of cultivation.

Music was extended by the introduction of a Pife and Drum Band in 1904 and an H.M.I. report states, "The Cottage Gardens are well cared for and a good beginning has been made with a Pife and Drum Band".

Now came a long period of consolidation before the next broadening of the curriculum. It was not until 1913 that we find a bald statement "Benches for a Carpenter's shop bought". By whom, or how, it is not stated but on 25th July H.M.I. report states that "Cookery instruction is now given in the new building provided by the Managers. Gardening is popular with the 28 boys who are being instructed (There were 30 plots marked out). Physical Education: the children are fortunate in possessing ample open space. Good use is made of it".

1914 sees yet another H.M.I. visiting. His report says: "Handicraft work began in in September last. It is taught by the Headmaster assisted by a skilled artisan" (Young) Sam Kerley. As an infant you would be forbidden Needlework before the status of Standard I but you must have two Reading Lessons daily.

The Top Infants knitted in plain and purl. The seven year olds made a yoked pinafore in hard while linen. This they were allowed to keep. All girls were expected to wear pinafores to school.



By 1919 Cricket and Basket Ball (Netball) came into school life. The Netball team earned a very high respect from opposing teams from over the border in the Bournemouth schools. At this time Talbot Village was in the County of Dorset and Bournemouth was an independent Local Authority. The Vicar of the newly-formed Parish, The Rev. Benjamin Robert Clutterbuck, presented a cup for competition by the netball teams of the surrounding area, this competition is still in being today.

A barrow was opened in Talbot Woods in 1908 and an enterprising teacher took Class I to watch the proceedings. Other out-of-school visits made a beginning; in 1919 children were taken to see the film of Sir Ernest Shackleton's journey to the Antarctic, and the infants were taken to the Winton Picture Palace to see pictures of the Prince of Wales Tour. To which locality is not stated.

Discipline had its headaches in the early years and the Headmaster had problems:

1877. "A few boys who had brought dinners to school had knocked off fir cones and stored them in their pockets to take home. I took them from them, read them a lecture on the enormity of their offence and warned them and the whole school of the consequences of a similar transgression."

In the following year the Head punished a number of boys for throwing mud at the girls, and two boys for playing in school and breaking a window. In 1880 a boy was punished for playing with a catapult outside the school "after I had expressly forbidden it some time ago". One night in January 1883 the school gates were lifted off their hinges. Word was sent to the police. No record of their action is given. A boy truant, the only one recorded, in 1896. His mother brought him back the next day but rather than have him punished she took him away again. Obscene language is reported.

The Headmaster had one period of acute depression; in May 1883 he cites the list of woes:

- Poor progress during the year
- Irregular attendance
- Very wet
- Large percentage of dullards owing to low habits and home influence of parents
- Low standard of morality in Highmoor

Poverty

Lack of books

Stipendiary lacking power of teaching and discipline owing to physical causes".

Not surprisingly, repercussions followed and in July we find that the school has lost its Certificate of Efficiency. By October we hear that the H.M.I.

"regrets that the Trustees do not apply to have the school placed on an annual grant. It is regretted that such an excellent building should be thrown away".

Evidently someone took action for before the end of the same month an entry reads: "After correspondence with the Department the school will be accepted as efficient". In 1886 we hear that "Needlework, a very important branch of the school work, is not more than fair at present". The subject was taken by the Headmaster's wife, not a teacher.

Infant teachers were very cheap in 1896. In an analysis of the aid grant we find that:-

Extra salary for infant teacher for 3 months	£3. 0. 0.
Museum blinds	£16. 17. 6.
Objects for object lesson	£6. 0. 2.
New desks	£13. 1. 0.

Prior to 1918 the school leaving age was 12 providing that an examination was passed, but in 1882 there is an entry that a "Boy of 12 years 9 months was placed to work by his father though he has not passed Standard III. The School Board took no action."

There was concern about an enquiry with reference to the proposed erection of a Smallpox Hospital near to the school. This was in 1902 and no further reference to the matter is made.

The name of the school seems to vary; the stone mounted in the building gives it as "Endowed", at another time it is called "Talbot Village Undenominational School". With the coming of the Barchester Scheme when the school was helped by Diocesan funds it became "St. Mark's Aided School". With the extension of the Dorset boundary in 1974 it became "St. Mark's, Bournemouth". To the old inhabitants of the area it will always be known as "Talbot" or the "Village School". They get confused by references

to "Talbot (Combined) School" - the one which has been built behind the Recreation Ground on part of what was Talbot Village Farm land in the Poole district.

The foregoing has been derived chiefly from old Log Books but once again W. Bartlett gives some personal memories of immediate post First World War. He says that the Rev. B. R. Clutterbuck considered it part of his duties to oversee regular religious instruction and frequently looked in at classes between 9.0am and 10.0am. He also regarded the Headmaster as a local dignitary, to be respected and feared. His Headmaster had moved from Corfe Castle to Talbot Village. To the small boy "he was a fearsome man who never spared the rod". He goes on to say, "A unique feature of his rule was that after morning assembly he gave a resumé of the news, followed by discussion. Personally it triggered off my interest in current affairs; maybe that was the intention. There was nothing political as far as I can recall, nor can I recall any child being unable to read or calculate". He regarded the Headmistress of the Infants' School as being a "dragon" who was counter-balanced by "a real charmer". The former married a man with a two seater flat twin engine cylinder Rover; the latter taught till full retirement age.

A nonengarian's recollection of a teacher was her nickname of "Mizpah", this because she often cuffed the boys on the ear, bruising them with her engraved ring! The same gentleman told me that Young Sam Kerley, grown up into a skilled carpenter and working for W. M. William, had told him that he had helped to put on the Church roof (1870). I have no other verification of this.

### 3. THE ALMSHOUSES

In the History of Talbot Village 1873, we find "Not far from the Church is a range of very beautiful Almshouses, the design by Mr. Creeke, carried out by Mr. McWilliam. Built and endowed by the founder of the village in 1862, these are of Portland Stone, with seven separate lodgements; that is, to lodge, should they be married, fourteen persons. Before them lies a flower garden and an ornamental well, the whole open to the east and south sun, having a glorious view over the country; and behind the building is a garden for vegetables, with the means of keeping pigs and poultry for those old people who have health and strength left to attend to these things.

The building is endowed in perpetuity for fourteen persons, with allowance of six shillings a week to each of the seven lodgements, two tons of coal, and a doctor to attend. (This is before the days of a National Health Service). The almshouses are intended for the old and infirm of the labouring classes not able to earn a livelihood, the whole under certain regulations from the trustees or landlords of the institution; and here all has been done to afford peace and security to old age, and to alleviate the misery of want at the end of life."

Concerning the medical attention, a son of one Headmaster told me that the Trustees paid him one shilling a week to collect prescriptions, walk to the top of Richmond Hill, where they were dispensed, and bring back the medicine for the sick.

In 1864 Miss Talbot had drawn up rules of behaviour, eighteen in all, for the residents. For some unknown reason "No-one in Hampshire was to be admitted. Candidates for admission had to be of good character for honesty, sobriety and unlikely to be quarrelsome, troublesome or unpleasant neighbours. Every inmate to assist his or her neighbours in time of sickness or infirmity, and any omission of this duty to be marked with censure. No inmate to lay out offensive matter or hand out clothes in front of the Almshouses". These rules were drawn up by Miss Talbot in October 1864. The Deed of Settlement, two years earlier, said they were for married or single men. Preference was to be given to agricultural labourers and small farmers of less than 50 rented acres, possessing no means of support other than Parish Relief.

Old records report on a certain Dicky King who lived in an old mud cottage in Main Road about 200 yards from where the Smugglers Path crossed. He had power to charm awa' warts. When in later life he lived in the Almshouses, he cooked his meals out of doors.

There was provision for weekly payments, a supply of coal, medical attention, burial fees and the setting up of headstones.

"Out of income the Trustees shall:-

- (a) Pay the inmates
- (b) Insure, repair and maintain the buildings
- (c) Pay rates and outgoings
- (d) Pay expenses of Trustees and for the appointment of new Trustees
- (e) Pay the salary of the Agent
- (f) Pay burial expenses



Glenmoor School for Girls



Slade's Farm School



The Library, Dorset Institute of Higher Education



The Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design

#### 4. THE FARMS

"The farms are doing well and will gradually improve" was the statement in the 1873 History of the Village.

##### TALBOT VILLAGE FARM

Of the six farms, Talbot Village Farm was the largest with 111 acres. This holding was leased originally to a man called Laidlaw who had jobbing stables and used the land as paddocks for the horses. He had a thriving business. Prior to 1914, in the hands of Mr. Groves, mixed farming was well established and a thriving dairy business developed. Just before the outbreak of World War 1 the grandfather of the present tenant, returning from experience in Canada, was the first to establish a herd of pedigree Friesian cattle. He also introduced fresh drinking water through an automatic feed both in the fields and the cowshed. The large field, now occupied by the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, was a landing ground for Amy Johnson's aeroplane. It was also the site of the Southern Counties Agricultural Show.

The Hon. Charles S. Rolls, of Rolls Royce fame, did some flying in this field. A nonagenarian recounts how Rolls was taking a passenger around the field. This meant that he kept the plane rolling along the ground, as a motor car, not taking off. In his pleasure at moving swiftly, the stick came back, up went the nose, and over the hedge hopped the plane. No-one was injured but everyone was excited. Rolls was later killed in 1910, in an Air Display near Hengistbury Head, in what is now St. Peter's School playing field.

W.M.A. Edgington A.L.A. gives more information concerning this field in his book "Bournemouth and the First World War". He says, "The only friendly aircraft seen over Bournemouth came mostly from the new aerodrome at Talbot Village". The aerodrome, which was opened in November 1915, and run by the Bournemouth Aviation Company, was stated to be "One of the finest private ones in England". It was approximately where the Dorset Institute of Higher Education has been built. Exhibitions of flying were given and spectators were encouraged to attend. Admission was 6d. (2d) and 1/- (5p) and passenger flights were from £3.

The staff of the flying school there trained future pilots for the Royal Flying Corps and for the Belgian Flying Corps. In April 1916 there were 16 pupils and two

instructors. There was a hangar which could take four aircraft.

The flying school moved to Ensbury Farm (outside Talbot Village), an estate of 88 acres at a cost of £8,600 in the early part of 1917. The last advertisement for flying at Talbot Village appeared in the Bournemouth Graphic in the issue dated 9th February 1917.

The present recreation ground in Wallisdown Road was originally the 'Football Field', and training ground for an Infantry Regiment during 1914 onwards. After the war, it reverted to a play area again, until the next time. Wheat was grown there during the Second World War, this then being part of the farm acreage. The field has one boundary with Talbot Drive. Many years ago, before this road was made up, it was known as "Postman's Lane" because, about level with the present Mossley Avenue, there was a small galvanised hut which was used by Mr. Trim, the postman, as a waiting spot between the early morning delivery and the first collection of the day. A little farther along Talbot Drive we see yet another inroad on agricultural land, Talbot Combined School, in the district of Poole.

#### TALBOT FARM (SLADE'S FARM)

Talbot Farm, now known as Slade's Farm, the name of the last tenant, was much smaller, only 30 acres. This was a dairy farm with a small retail business. After milking and delivery, grain was fetched from Hall and Woodhouse's brewery at Blandford. This was by horse and cart transport. The day's work was completed by the second milking. It is said that a small school was held there before the village school was built in 1862. Samuel Kerley, Churchwarden, lived there with his grandparents. In living memory, there was a dresser, which though well-scrubbed, still showed the ink-stained circles on the sites of former inkwells. The roof showed where an extension was made. A piece was built on and the end bedroom was entered directly from the bedroom next door. Slade's Farm was subject to a Preservation Order. The acreage behind has been developed as a large housing estate, including not only houses for sale, but a school and special housing for the elderly. On the Slade's Farm site we see a repetition of the aims of the foundress of Talbot Village; build homes, schools and care for the elderly. The farmhouse was demolished in 1977.

#### WHITE FARM

White Farm, originally Wareham's Farm, and now the property of the Bournemouth District Council, was on a site of 22 acres. Some corn was grown on the site of Glenmoor School and the playing fields. The site of the Corporation allotments adjacent to the football pitches was a cornfield during the First World War. The saplings at present dividing the playing area sprang up on the line of a former bank which separated two fields on the farm. The tenant had a contract to supply meat to Vye, a butcher in Commercial Road in Bournemouth. Cattle was obtained from Wimborne Market. The animals used to walk from Wimborne to Wallisdown to the abattoir which stood on the site of the new roundabout at Wallisdown, opened in 1984. Wimborne was then the nearest railway station to Bournemouth.

Once more, Mr. Bartlett has a local resident's view of this area. In his estimation, he considers that the decline in the Village environment started with the felling of trees in about 1917, and was followed by the break-up of Wareham's Farm in the early 1920's, when the highly productive cornfields (now Corporation allotments and the area of Talbot Rise) were sold by the owners of that land. He says, "With the loss of the cornfields, and the splendid oaks bordering them, the character of that part of the village changed dramatically; the annual corn harvest and the farming activity, threshing, rick building and so on which followed it soon ceased. Eventually, Mr. Houndsell who operated the farm, gave up and the farm was next tenanted by "Billy" Squelch who owned a wholesale butcher and slaughterhouse business at Wallisdown." It was about this time (1924) that the whole structure was coloured white and took 'White' as its name.

A family by the name of Manuel worked White Farm for a number of years. Eventually, the parents retired and found a home in the Almshouses for a time. A son now resides in one of the village cottages.

#### HIGHMOOR FARM

This is a small stock farm of some 15 acres and lies at the side of Talbot Manor, on the old boundary between Bournemouth and Dorset, and is within the Poole district.

At the side of the entrance lane to the farm is a large brick pillar engraved as being the Parish of Holdenhurst, denoting that in 1870 the parish of Holdenhurst

stretched much farther south than it does today, when there are several parishes intervening.

The tenant supplied meat to a W.Ridout who had a local shop on Poole Hill, just below the Triangle. Of late years the farm has been run by Miss Donaldson; she has retired during the past year.

Since this was a later development it became necessary to provide housing for the workers, so two more cottages were built. These do not conform to the standard pattern of Talbot Village houses. They are constructed of red brick and form a semi-detached pair of L-shaped interlocking houses. These were occupied by another branch of the Holloway family and a Mr.Collis, who worked for Miss Donaldson.

#### MIDDLE FARM

This farm was often identified by the name of the tenants, Butlers. It comprised some 15 acres and was worked entirely as a market garden. Butlers had a retail outlet in their shop next to the Post Office in Lansdowne Road, Bournemouth.

Although the house had been modernised following 1931, the tenants left. The place remained empty and it was not long before vandals destroyed it. The site today is occupied by the changing rooms for the adjacent playing fields but one relic remains. This is a very old mulberry tree which still manages to produce a few leaves and a little fruit each year.

The Right of Way which marks the western boundary of Talbot Village used to cross diagonally over the Butlers' fields to Slade's Lane and on to Boundary Lane, the eastern boundary of the estate. This was a short cut for pedestrians into the town. Today, the path has been re-routed close to the banks of the fields so as not to interfere with Glenmoor School playing fields.

The Butlers were rather ostentatious; it is said that when the daughter of the house married, a roll of carpet (red) was hired to stretch from the main road to the door of St.Mark's Church. This was the first marriage in the Church.

#### LOLLIPOP FARM

This used to be a mixed farm of 16 acres. Eight acres were absorbed for the Glenmoor School site in the 1950's, and after some use by Mr.Peter Vine, working it with his

Talbot Village Farm, it has been developed into housing on the Slade's Farm Estate in 1976. By late 1984 the farmhouse was damaged by fire after children broke in. The Bournemouth Planning Committee had accommodated families there, and since they were moved out the building is falling into disrepair. It is a building listed as being of special interest. It seems likely that it will suffer the same fate as Slade's Farmhouse.

With the demise of this house, and Talbot Village Farmhouse (soon to be no more) there will be only White Farm left, for Highmoor was for stock only and had no farmhouse of its own.

## 5. THE CHURCH

Houses, farms, school and almshouses complete and in occupation, Miss Talbot turned her attention to the Church. In 1867 about 307 acres were conveyed to the Trustees, and two years later three acres were set aside for the site of the church of St. Mark.

The dedication information comes from the Centenary booklet:

"On his estate in Bournemouth, Sir George Gervis in 1838 made the first place of worship by having two semi-detached cottages - in the Square where the Debenham store now stands - knocked into one, the windows made "churchy", and a bell turret added, and this building was the first, albeit temporary, church in Bournemouth. When the parish church of St. Peter's was built, the little chapel was sold to Miss Talbot and it was pulled down and used as part of the material for the school. A carved stone figure of St. Mark was placed in the niche over the present porch of the new church. (By tradition St. Peter's right-hand helper was St. Mark)".

The building was designed by Messrs. Evans & Fletcher of Wimborne, "of solid form and graceful effect in Portland and Purbeck stone from Dorset quarries". Mr. McWilliam directed the building at a cost of £5,000. It is interesting to note that additional vestries built of the same building materials in 1959 cost £3,000 and a new porch, in keeping, added in 1969, cost as much as the original building.

Shortly before the Consecration, Miss Georgina died, and was the first to be buried in the spacious churchyard. She planned her own Ionic cross. The site shows up well from the top of the tower. Cuttings in the Bournemouth Library state that "Children, dressed in black, the gift of Miss Talbot, were taken down to the brick vault to see their benefactress at rest".

Sydenham's Guide to Bournemouth 1880 described the church as

"Forming a very prominent feature in the landscape: its situation in the comparatively open table land rendering it conspicuous in all directions. It is a small, but exceedingly chaste building in early

decorated style, consisting of a nave, north and south transepts and chancel with a very handsome tower, built in the most massive manner, 75 feet high at the West end. The masonry is of hammer-dressed grey stone, from Swanage and Stalbridge. The seats are of open benches made of pitch pine, the roof being of the same material. (The first cleaning of these pews took place in 1921 and services were held in the Church Room in Alton Road. This hall had been built in 1908. These pews were replaced in 1969 when the new porch was added). The floor is hid entirely of encaustic tiles from the Poole Architectural Pottery. (These tiles were worn and were replaced with Poole Pottery tiles soon after the Second World War). The pulpit has graceful proportions of pink marble columns from Italy. The font is of rare white marble and was brought from Rome by Miss Talbot's father, Sir George, and was an ancient vase taken from the River Tiber."

It is said that Miss Talbot's original intention was to have a peal of bells and a team of ringers. When it was suggested that the ringers would use their on-the-spot payment to whet their whistle at the Wallisdown pub, she decided on mechanical chimes, installed by Gillett and Johnson. These work by means of a clockwork drum and ring a different tune for each day of the week.

Sunday	"Old Hundredth"
Monday	National Anthem
Tuesday	"St. Michael"
Wednesday	"Suffolk"
Thursday	"The Minstrel Boy"
Friday	"Rousseau's Dream"
Saturday	"The Last Rose of Summer"

Local residents knew the day of the week and periods of the day when the chimes rang out at 9.am., noon, 3.p.m. and 6.p.m. In due course, the drum began to wear and the pitch of the notes became variable until, finally, they were tied back, as they were for noon on Sundays. It was amusing for children if the verger forgot to tie them back on a Sunday and the Old Hundredth pealed out during the sermon. Today, there is a series of eight bells which ring changes mechanically on special occasions.

After the death of her sister, Marianne Talbot completed what needed to be done. Her gifts to the church

## GLENMOOR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The School, with extensive playing fields covers an area of about 13½ acres which were once farmed by the occupier of Middle Farm, Butlers by name, on the Talbot Village Estate. Building work commenced in November 1955, was completed in April 1957 and the premises have been used for teaching since May 1957. They cost £200,000 and the school opened with a staff of 57 under the control of the first Headmistress, Miss H.L.Shaw; today, with falling rolls, the staff numbers 39. The project architect was Mr.M.L. Craven, A.R.I.B.A. and the contractors Messrs.J.Drewitt Ltd.

I am indebted to Miss Shaw for information concerning the population of this new building by means of what she named "The Great Move" (1957) when "A glorious dream was fulfilled at the command of that mighty pharaoh, Education". Since 1949 Miss Shaw had been Headmistress of Winton and Moordown Girls' School on part of the site also embracing Winton and Moordown Boys' and Winton and Moordown Infants' Schools in Coronation Avenue. As the name suggests, these schools were opened in 1911. They were built at a cost of £13,930 to house 390 boys in 8 classes, 390 girls in 8 classes (both these with an average of 48 pupils in a class), and 47 mixed infants with 52 in a class.

With the new building available, the girls were pressed into service to fill innumerable cardboard boxes. Miss Shaw draws a veil over the transportation and unpacking of these boxes and records how nostalgically some of the senior girls looked back on the known. Any regret soon gave way to eager anticipation at the thought of the new gymnasium, tennis courts, spacious library and bright classrooms. "By Wednesday the old had become the new. The Great Move was over".

Today, under Miss D.G.Bellairs Cox there are some 700 girls - a 5-form entry - who follow a wide curriculum and work "to get the best that modern education can offer in order that they may become better citizens of the future, loyal employees in all walks of life".

Recent years have seen many developments in the academic organisation of the school life, largely due to the opportunities provided by the introduction of non-traditional subjects available for assessment at C.S.E. and O level, or simply as a training of awareness of the changing organisation of everyday life as in Computer Appreciation, Social Studies and Parentcraft belong to the C.S.E.course whilst Integrated Humanities require O level standard. Biology

is taught so as to be assessed either at C.S.E. or O level. History is based on localised investigation which stimulates research into the past rather than encouraging reliance entirely upon "what the text book says". This has stimulated an evergrowing interest and a desire to reach an examination standard in the subject.

Recently there has been a change in the constitution of Governing Bodies of Schools. Instead of consisting predominantly of Town Councillors (in Bournemouth) they now consist of specially appointed individuals (who may be councillors), parents, and staff representatives. This has widened the base of interest in and support for the school at a time of increasing financial stringency when schools are being compelled to re-assess the effectiveness of their work in meeting the requirements of a rapidly changing world.

## SLADE'S FARM SCHOOL AND HOSTEL

Slade's Farm School was opened in April 1975 and its Hostel a year later. It was built on part of the original Slade's Farm in Talbot Village after a compulsory purchase of the land.

The School caters for 50 pupils aged 11 to 16 years with special educational needs. Pupils are admitted to the school for varying lengths of time, some being re-admitted to mainstream education after a relatively short period, whilst others remain at Slade's Farm until they reach school leaving age. The school curriculum is very similar to that of a normal secondary school, thus ensuring that those who are able to return to ordinary school may do so with the minimum of difficulty.

Residential provision is available at Slade's Farm Hostel which caters for up to 30 children between seven and sixteen years of age. The hostel facility means that Slade's Farm School can provide for children from all parts of Dorset as well as for local children whose educational needs require residence within the School; some attend other special schools or mainstream schools in Bournemouth.

The school is generously staffed and parents and teachers are partners in the process of promoting the healthy, mental, social and educational growth of the children.

## THE OAKS

This establishment is in Slades Farm Road and originally formed part of Talbot Farm. It has slipped into being so unobtrusively that many are unaware of its existence. Since it cares for and educates by training children to live as a family, I include it amongst the schools, though in fact it comes under the jurisdiction of the East Dorset Health Authority.

It opened in 1982 as a two-storey building to accommodate 25 mentally handicapped children from 2-16 years who are in need of continuous nursing care, under medical supervision. Children come from a wide catchment area in the south east of the County.

The needs of the children necessitate staff with wide ranging qualifications: Nursing Officer and Deputies, Houseparents, Cooks, Housekeeping Registrar, Psychologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and a local General Practitioner. Staff undertake night duty in rotation.

The facilities include 12 single, 4 double bedrooms and a five-cot nursery, with attendant toilets, baths and showers; a kitchen, dining room, playroom, a soft-play playroom, T.V. room, clinic, laundry, an on-call room and staff rest room. There is also an enclosed courtyard with play equipment and a garden.

Almost all the children attend local special schools, or training centres from 9.30am to 3.30 pm. The unit has an open door policy for parents who are able to visit at any time of the day or night. It supplies a base for parental groups, involving and supporting parents, and reducing the need for the long-term institutional care of the mentally handicapped children.

## TALBOT COMBINED SCHOOL

There are now two Primary Schools in Talbot Village and, as is fitting, the story of the original place of learning on the estate, the Endowed School of 1862, now known as St. Mark's, has been dealt with at length earlier in this account.

Nearly 100 years later, a compulsory purchase allowed eleven acres of the Talbot Village Farm to be available for the building of Talbot Combined School, in the north east corner of the Poole District.

The Architect was Mr. Roy Watson, of the Poole Borough Architect's Department, the Clerk of Works Mr. R. Browning and Harry Hawkins Ltd. were the builders. The latter firm dated from 1919 when a local family of brothers went into business. The School opened in January 1969 to cater for children between the ages of 5 and 11. By 1972 it became a combined First and Middle School and the age range became 5 to 12 years. Almost from its beginning extensions were added, the first in 1971, twice in 1972, again in January 1973 and finally in October 1974 making a total of 21 classrooms as against the original twelve. The extension class units were built by F.R. Freeman Ltd.

The school is famous for its self-help and charitable projects. By 1971 a swimming pool was built at a cost of £13,500; indoor, and heated to 84 degrees F it contains 33,000 gallons of water. By 1983 the school covered its heating costs of £6,000 a year, together with the salaries of special teachers of swimming. The pool is used regularly by other schools, and by the public in evenings and holidays, thus covering the running costs.

The community spirit of the school is well illustrated by the purchase and re-erection of a secondhand mobile classroom - in 1979 - at a cost of £3,750, for use as a playroom for the youngest children in the mornings and as a meeting place of the school Playgroup in the afternoons. Still exercising self help, by June 1980 a permanent bandroom was built at a cost of £10,400 and changing rooms were added in 1983 costing £22,000.

In a record of this nature it is impossible to record the many philanthropic activities of this school; the School brochure makes fascinating reading. Suffice to say that the fortunate children of this catchment area receive a sound, broad-based academic education, are well disciplined, and develop a high sense of responsibility to those in need, either from physical or financial handicap.

The extra-mural activities are wide ranging and include the care of families of live animals and a highly successful Brass Band as well as drama groups. The wide use of the building outside school hours had made it a truly Community School. Its charity projects have enabled over £30,000 to be dispersed since 1979. The Headmaster, Mr. D.A. Hancock MBE. is humbly proud of the school he has led since its birth.

## THE DORSET INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Institute stands on part of the largest farm in Talbot Village, bordering Wallisdown Road. It had been originally planned as the new site of the Bournemouth Colleges of Technology and Art and Design by the Bournemouth Education Committee which had long campaigned for the establishment of a polytechnic in the area to which the many advanced courses run by the Colleges could be transferred. The foundation stone of the new buildings, designed as a first instalment only of the new college, was laid by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester in October 1973. Building continued after 1st April 1974 under the Dorset County Council which had taken over the educational powers of the Bournemouth Council on that date as a result of Local Government Reorganisation. By September 1976 the buildings were complete and were taken into use without any formal opening. Her Majesty the Queen took lunch there in the Institute's Thomas Hardy Restaurant in March 1979, and to commemorate the occasion she unveiled a plaque in the Lecture Theatre.

The Dorset Education Committee had reviewed the provision of Further and Higher Education in its extended area and as a result a new name, reflecting changes in national policy, was given to the establishment. As the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, it has evolved as a result of the transfer to the Institute of all the higher level academic courses from the Bournemouth College of Technology, the South Dorset Technical College at Weymouth and a small number of advanced courses from the Poole Technical College.

In 1985 a new building programme will be completed which will provide staff accommodation together with specialist teaching facilities. These will include a new computer centre and laboratories for Field Studies. Some existing buildings will convert to supply facilities for Media Studies.

The Weymouth College, opened soon after the war of 1939-45 as an Emergency College for the Training of Teachers, and renamed a College of Education in 1974, will be vacated in 1985. The premises will then be used as part of a Tertiary College being opened in that area. From September 1985 all students will be located either at the main Institute Campus or at the Lansdowne site in Bournemouth.

In addition to the extremely wide options for study within the Institute there are many research projects supported. Some of these attract substantial external funding. Another service to the community is the provision of a local study centre for the Open University, where some 500 undergraduates attend regular tutorials.

It would seem reasonable at this juncture to expect that the Institute will be given full Polytechnic status in the near future.

## BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

In 1984 we received the "baby" of this extraordinary assembly of educational establishments into the Village. "Baby" in that it seems to be the last to arrive, yet, as its history shows, it is an amalgamation of various growths prior to 1913 (in both Poole and Bournemouth), thus making it already mature upon arrival.

Only the initiated, or the genuine seeker, will trace this gem tucked away so privately on an old corn field south of the Dorset Institute of Higher Education, and approached from the Talbot Village Roundabout in Wallisdown Road. To those who do, it is a heartening experience. There is a strength and serenity apparent as one approaches; colouring is richly subdued until the interior is exposed with its shining vivid splashes of colour. The students seem to have inherited a maturity of the past; they move gently, with purpose, as if aware of the power surrounding them.

As in many centres of education, the Library forms the heart. I quote from the brochure:

"The Library exists as a rich storehouse of knowledge. In addition to 30,000 books it contains a vast array of visual and sound images contained, for example, in records, videos, slides and posters. It was designed to have a welcoming atmosphere and to be an attractive environment in which to work". I fully endorse its air of welcome. The sense of purpose is very noticeable, yet a student cheerfully broke his concentration to explain the (to me) mysteries of his computer print out. The books on the shelves and tables told their mute tale of careful usages as if to proclaim "Here is treasure, seek it". Who mounted an old print on the wall? "Your Father knoweth things ye have need of".

The 300 students with their highly qualified staff are well trained in their chosen options, and it is gratifying to learn that almost every one finds employment of his choice after qualification. This is a good record for the largest centre for DATEC National Diploma and H.N.D. courses in the South West. It has departments for vocational courses in General Art and Design; Graphic Design; Technical and Natural History Illustration; Photography; Film and Television; Fashion and Interiors.

To date, the most nationally known ex-student is Courteney Jones, four times world ice-skating champion, who studied design at the College and applied his knowledge to design the Bolero costumes worn by Torville and Dean, World & Olympic Ice-Skating Champions 1984.

The Cinematic students proved their skills when in November 1984 the film makers, with their "Killing Time" won the prize for the best direction and film at the Munich Film Festival. This followed the Grand Prix Award in Belgium when the film beat 130 others from all over Europe.

The local areas can be rightly proud of teachers and taught within this College.

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What a mighty oak has grown from Miss Talbot's tiny acorn in less than a century and a half. Its roots extend on the eastern boundary to continue her philanthropic ideals. The gross value of Miss Talbot's Will was £354,356. Much of the property was inherited by Lord Leven. It was he who had Talbot Manor built in 1890, it opened as a Church of England Home for Waifs and Strays and housed 22 boys. After the Second World War with extensions and modifications, it became a family-type home for 16 boys and girls. By 1984 the need for this form of care was changed, and the Church of England Children's Society relinquished the lease.

The Shaftesbury Society, with its caring units for disabled and elderly people was desperately in need of more accommodation for local youngsters who want to continue their education beyond the age of sixteen. Lord Leven has kindly agreed to meet this need by transferring a long lease to the Shaftesbury Society of the Talbot Manor Home.