WEST BUCKLAND

THE DIARY OF AN EDWARDIAN SCHOOL

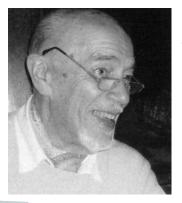
Berwick Coates

In the year when West Buckland School near Barnstaple celebrates its 150th anniversary, this diary presents the School as it approached its 50th. Thanks to a remarkably varied set of surviving records, we possess the names of every boy in the School in that year, and every member of staff. We have a full School photograph, and many group photographs as well. We have their cricket scorecards, their exam results, their house match details, the titles of the books they won as prizes, the results of their unending cross-country races. We know what they talked about in their Reading and Debating Society – reform of the House of Lords and a Channel tunnel, for example. We know what their Governors did at their meetings. We know what the School Inspectors wrote in their report. We know who sang what songs at the Old Boys' Dinners and Socials.

We meet scores of Old Boys, whose careers were celebrated in the pages of the *Register*, the School magazine. One discovered a cure for leprosy; one worked for the Emperor of China; one was almost certainly a Government spy. We know quite a lot about what these pupils of 1907 did after they left School. 64 of them served in the First World War. 24 were commissioned. 8 were decorated. 8 died. This out of a School roll of under 80. One lived to be 99. Another made it to 100, dying in 1995.

Put yourself in the position of a likely parent, and read the School Prospectus. Share the drama of a year which saw the appointment of a new headmaster, the imminence of bankruptcy, the voluntary liquidation of the School Company, and the re-naming of the School. The Devon County School became West Buckland School.

Quite simply, make the acquaintance of a totally unself-conscious community, secluded in an obscure, quiet corner of Exmoor country, going about the absorbing business of living a hundred years ago.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Berwick Coates holds a
Cambridge MA degree in History,
and has been at various times an
Army officer, a writer, an artist, a
lecturer, a careers adviser, and a
teacher of History, English, Latin,
Maths, Games, and Swahili. He has
been a School archivist for nearly ten
years. He has published five books.

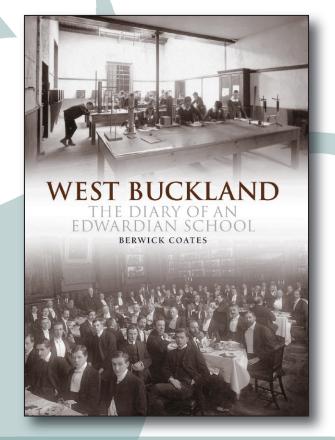
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The Devon County School – founded in 1858. This building had its foundation stone laid in October, 1860. The building was opened in October, 1861.



Above: The Old Boys' Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant in London. Joseph Thompson, the first Headmaster, is standing at the left. Between the wars dinners were held, among other places, at Simpson's and the Dorchester.

Above right: The School (with Masters) Cricket team - July, 1907. Standing, L. to R. – A. Pearce, P.J. Were, A. O. Parker, A.E. Preston, L.K.V. Job. Sitting, L. to R. – R.W. Seldon, W.L. Giffard, E.C. Harries, A. Taylor, J.B. Harris, S. Bendall.

'Right: Big School', as it was known, where the prizes were presented. It is a couple of Modern Languages classrooms now.





Example of a double page spread

THE DIARY OF AN EDWARDIAN SCHOOL



result of an examination to beay living within a radius of filteen males from the School. These chalonlappe examps the holders from tusion free, and also entitle there to a relatation in bactering free.

Extractics Scholarships for bounders, given the Covernous and OM Beay, are from time to time effects for open competition. These, should supply usely in value from LTD to LTD to get the present, and are resulted to other years.

The Middle Scho

The new Laboratories were opened in 1904. In the title is a Lecture room provided with an optical lantern is also trught. It will tex 28 boys. On the and deconomistion table. It will use 200 keys. On the current alle a large which Laboratory is on the northern for 24 keys. The Physics Laboratory is on the northern for 24 keys. The Physics Laboratory is on the northern table 25 kews. Room, which this class be defined for a proper particular, the contract proper particular, the 25 keys. Room, which class the designed as to tain beyon The Science Consum's no designed as to tain beyon to design the particular particular



The Middle School receives instruction in Carpentry and the use of teeds once a week. A highly-skilled Instructor with the School for this purpose.

Boys are also allowed to work in the carpenter's shop in their playtime, and have the anistance of a working carpenter to superintend their work. Simple forge work

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Swimming Bath.

Drill and Shooting. All boys are expected to drill under the inst

7.15 – 8, Preparation (Summer Term only).

8.09, Breakfast,
8.45 – 12.15, Prayers, School, (with 15 mins break,)
1.00, Dinner.
2 – 4, School.
6.30, Tea.

General Administration Time Table. - The fixed hours on week-days, at esent, are as follows:-



Devon County School -Staff and Prefects. Standing, L. to R. – W. Saunders, I. Britton, W.L. Giffard, S. Bendall, W.M. Burridge, W.L. Armstrong, J.B. Harris. Seated, L. to R. -C.G. Fry, Revd. E.C. Harries, A. Taylor.