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Childhood interrupted



This exhibition draws upon research undertaken by staff and students of University of Worcester History department, working in collaboration with Worcestershire Archives & Archaeological Service and children and young people from Worcestershire and neighbouring counties.

Items on display have been loaned by University of Worcester Research Collections, Worcestershire Archives & Archaeological Service, Worcester Doll & Toy Club and Museums Worcestershire.

The exhibition has been funded by the World War One Engagement Centre: Voices of War and Peace.



Arts & Humanities
Research Council





The following children from Worcestershire Home Education Network helped to choose materials for the exhibition and went down into the archives at the Hive to see where historical documents are stored:

Alfie, Anaëlle, Angus, Barnaby, Bethany, Callum, Darcey, Darcie, David, Eleanor, Eleonar, Ethan, Éva, Evie, Francesca, Freddie, Jake, Jo, Joe, Jonathan, Joseph, Laurie, Louis, Mattias, Millie, Mini, Scarlett and Sonny.



Children in WWI - school absences



25th October: Several children are away with influenza, epidemic

Fri 18th June A girl sent home - a dirty head

Fri 23rd Oct Chicken Pox rife amongst the scholars

GIRLS DEPT - ASTWOOD BANK R.C. SCHOOL, REDDITCH - 1917

Fri 05th Oct Some girls absent - diphtheria and scarlet fever

GIRLS DEPT - ASTWOOD BANK R.C. SCHOOL, REDDITCH - 1917

26th Jan Twenty absent owing to the effects of chill and also from an outbreak of influenza and diphtheria

GIRLS DEPT - ASTWOOD BANK R.C. SCHOOL, REDDITCH - 1916

Fri 17th Nov Quite a number of girls absent. An epidemic of influenza is rife in the village

Children in WWI - school absences



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES

George Brant (50), Labourer, The Newlands, Pershore, was summoned for not sending his daughter Bertha to school. Mr. C. F. Stratton, School Attendance Officer, gave evidence, and defendant was fined 5s. - William Spens (34), labourer, Charlton, was summoned by Mr. C. F. White, School Attendance Officer, Eddington, for not sending his children, Rose and William, to school. Mr. White and Mr. John Downing, Headmaster of Crophome School, gave evidence. It appeared that the children were in a Vermineous state and unfit to be sent to school. Fined 7s. 6d. for each child, the Chairman saying it was the defendant's duty to see that the children were sent to school in a clean condition.

Saturday 5th August 1915 - Worcester Herald

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES

Charles Burr (50), Labourer, The Newlands, Pershore, was summoned by Mr. C. F. Stratton, School Attendance Officer, Pershore, for not sending his child, Ethel, to school. Mr. Stratton said the child had only attended 27 times out of a possible 47 during the past six weeks. She was 10 years of age. There were two previous convictions. Fined 10s. - Ernest Payne (40), labourer, Bredon's Hardwick, was summoned by Mr. C. F. White, School Attendance Officer, Eddington, for not sending his child, Ernest, to school. Defendant did not appear, but sent an apology to the Court, pleading guilty, and saying that the reason he did not send the lad to school was that they had run short of bread, and sent him out for some. Mr. Stratton said the Education Committee brought the case forward because it was a common practice at Bredon's Hardwick to keep the children away from school for a considerable time after they had become of school age. Fined 10s.

Saturday 23rd June 1917 - Worcester Herald

Children in WWI - school absences



19th January: 42 children present out of 118 due to mumps. By order of W Fosbroke the school is closed for 2 weeks

Hancock's
Endowed School,
Bredon

- 30th April 1915, Page 77- two children, one 12 years and 9 months old and another 12 years 11 months, apply for school exemption to 'aid in gardening'

8th January: Poor attendance due to wet weather. Weather so bad in the afternoon that children were allowed to play and registers were not marked. 38 present out of 105

Hancock's
Endowed School,
Bredon

- 7th July 1916, Page 83- 'through so many of the older boys helping in agricultural work the attendance is poor'
- 14th July 1916, Page 83- this week 9 boys away doing agricultural work, thus 78 attendances lost

Bredon Council
School,
Bredon

- 27th July 1916, Page 90- 15 girls absent for afternoon attending the G. F. S. outing

The following members of Worcestershire Young Carers Group helped select materials for the exhibition: Athan, Cameron, Chloe, Ethan, Evie, Lahara, Lilly-Jo and Summer.



The following members of 4th Worcester Guides and Senior Section helped select materials and mount the exhibition: Abi, Aless, Emma, Graer, Jaqui, Karen, Maddie, Sadie and Sally.

The guides also painted eggs just as children used to do during World War One, when the eggs would have been sent to wounded soldiers to help them recover.



The following children painted eggs for the exhibition: Paige Carter and Emma Spiers, and the following members of 1st Tenbury Cub Scouts: ...

Erin and Florence Liu picked blackberries and made jam.

A Level students, Martin Evans and Charlotte Davies, respectively undertook archive research and helped with the preparation of the exhibition as part of their work experience.