

Welford and Weston Local History Society

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Newsletter 59 – January 4th 2020

Happy New Year to you all. The third meeting of this our 50th season, will be on Friday, 31st January at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, when the subject is "Education & Schooling in Welford and Weston – Part 2. This illustrated talk will be given by me - Brad Plimmer.

If you were a member of the Society during the 2017/2018 Season you might have come to the meeting in March 2018, where I gave the first part of this talk. That covered the period from the 16th Century up to the setting up of the church school in Welford in the 1850's. Part 2 covers the period from 1870, when the Elementary Education Act of 1870 ushered in the start of elementary education on a national level in England & Wales, up to the present day. Central to the Act was the setting up of Local School Boards for the District. These School Boards had powers to both establish and administer these local schools.



I will describe what this meant for Welford and Weston, as well as briefly mentioning Dorsington (plus Bickmarsh) which were all part of the Local School Board.

As with the introduction of any new system in the 1870s (just as today) there were many false starts. Learning difficulties if you like. There were also some examples of extraordinary Headmasters and Mistresses in the latter years of the 19th Century. Using documentation from the time, I will try and give you a feeling for what local Elementary Education & Schooling was like in those days. I hope you'll be able to recognise the challenges for both teachers and pupils alike at that time.

The majority of my talk will cover the Victorian period, but I will also mention what happened locally during the second World War, before finishing by looking briefly at the last sixty years.



*I hope there'll be something for everyone in this talk, and that you can come along on **Friday 31st January** to share it with me.*

Kind regards,

Brad Plimmer