



Willie Grim pupils reunited

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

On Saturday 25 February, ex-pupils and teachers of William Grimshaw School returned for the school's 50th anniversary.

William Grimshaw Secondary Modern was officially opened on 28 February 1955, though pupils had been attending since the previous September. The school later became Creighton School, and then Fortismere. The gathering took place in what is now Fortismere's North Wing.

Friends reunite

Organiser and ex-pupil Vic Wildish said the idea came to him after finding out about Friends Reunited - a website through which people can trace old classmates. "I'd say around 50% of the people here are from Friends Reunited, and the other 50% are from the Hornsey jungle drum," he said. The event took a year to plan, and had a brilliant response. Games teacher Miss Mary Penny was thrilled. "I never knew so many people would remember me," she said. Retired headteacher Mr Loades couldn't attend, but sent his best wishes.

Remember the Ravens?

Joe Stacey and his wife Anne, who met at 'Willie Grim', are about to celebrate their ruby anniversary. Famous pupils have included Rod Stewart, and Ray and Dave Davies of the Kinks. "They started out as the Ravens," a contemporary recalled. "They used to play at Northbank on Pages Lane. Then they went on *Ready Steady Go* as the Kinks and it just took off."

There was a catered lunch, ample time for people to meet and reminisce, followed by a tour of the building, led by current Fortismere pupils. "The pond's moved," one person complained. "It's a shame they don't still have the bike sheds anymore," joked another.

William Grimshaw School was "the first brand spanking new" school built in London after World War Two, and as such was a marvel in its time. Ex-pupil Barbara Turner told me, "Rumour has it one young lad came in and said 'Cor, it's better than the Odeon!'"

Understanding Wedgwood at Church Farmhouse Museum

The 50th anniversary exhibition of The Wedgwood Society London was officially opened by Sir Martin Wedgwood Bt, a descendant of Josiah Wedgwood, at Church Farmhouse Museum on Sunday 6 March. The exhibition runs from 26 February to 10 April.

Not just jasper

To mark its 50th anniversary, the society has compiled an exhibition showing specific aspects of Wedgwood which have been studied and researched by its members over the past half-century. Emphasis is given to the designers (such as Arnold Machin-Taurus and



Creamware Soup Tureen, circa 1800. Photos by John Dearing

Eric Ravilious) of fashionable pottery in the 20th Century and their products, often overlooked or underrated by the general public who tend to associate the Wedgwood name exclusively with blue jasper ware bearing white figures. Examples of this now iconic pottery are included too. Other areas featured include blue printed patterns, some of which are still in production today, although they first appeared in 1805, and some most unusual pieces, popular in their day, but now no longer in use. The 19th Century is represented with some lovely pieces based upon paintings and designs by the artist Emile Lessore, who worked with Wedgwood in the 1870s.

Telling the story

Documents, prints and photographs are used to tell the story of this remarkable pottery, from the 1750s, when fashionable people clamoured to be the first to have Mr Wedgwood's wares



Ceramic with design based on picture by Emile Lessore, c.1870.

on their tables and in their cabinets, to the present day.

Barnet's Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Katia David, said, "We warmly welcome Wedgwood to Barnet. This important exhibition will be of wide interest, with its display of rare pieces, modern day productions, information on designers, and of course the timeless blue jasper ware."

Church Farmhouse Museum, at Greyhound Hill, Hendon, is open Mondays to Thursdays 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm, Saturdays 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm, and Sundays 2pm to 5.30pm. Admission is free.

Wildlife Diary

By Linda Mitchell

At last, spring is on its way. The blue tits have been inspecting the nesting-box since the beginning of the year. Robins are flying back and forth across the garden, and I think there have been a few sparrows!

Throughout the winter, jays came to feed and the woodpeckers were frequent visitors. The parakeets are growing in numbers. They came almost daily during the winter and I have seen a flock of about 15 flying over on several occasions. Long-tailed tits darted about in the apple trees, the first time I have noticed them. It was wonderful to see an owl fly across the road right in front of me as I walked my dog one evening.

The garden was unusually free of slugs and snails last year and I wonder if that's been the reason why the hedgehog and the frogs have not been seen so often. The one lone frog spent the winter in a tall flowerpot.

Spring is a wonderful season. Everything in the garden is coming to life, and the birds will soon be making their nests. It's especially wonderful for me this spring as I have a new little grandchild arriving.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

What's cooking?

In these mean and vicious times where the crazies haven't just taken over the asylum, they've sold it to property developers, life has started to get so twisted that it's a dog eat dog world out there. And when it comes to eating, you've just got to have a celebrity chef. No meal is complete unless it's as seen on TV. Imagination? Hell no, that's for those poor people who haven't got the books and didn't see how Delia or Jamie did it.

Back in olden times, pre-Delia, when chefs weren't naked and Nigella hadn't been invented, recipes got passed down from mother to daughter. Everywhere women cooked just the way their mums had done it and even if the results looked like cement and tasted like cardboard, it was traditional. Girls learnt from their mothers how to ruin food traditionally and boys learnt from their fathers how not to complain. Cooking wasn't an art, it was about survival. Then came Fanny Craddock, but I don't really want to go there, anymore than I want to go anywhere anyone thinks that fondue can be called food.

It wasn't long before the sainted Delia appeared to tell us how to make tea, boil an egg, slice your own bread, use a toaster and generally do the sort of things that make the difference between cooking and getting a takeaway. All across suburbia people discovered cooking as an art form and spent so long watching Delia cook that they had no time left to cook and got a takeaway instead.

Now you can't cook anything without a celebrity chef to tell you what to do. With Nigella about you can't even eat without being told how to do it. And then there's Hugh Fearnley-Twittering explaining the easy way to slaughter your own pig and turn the unmentionable bits into sausages. If you don't follow the recipes you can't hold your head up in polite society and if you've cheated and got it from Sainsco or Tesco then you've got to hide the packaging so that none of your friends know you've got better things to do than drizzle olive oil over the things you can't drizzle balsamic vinegar over.

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