Education in Newbold Verdon, 1700 – 2013

In 1720 Nathaniel, Lord Crewe bequeathed £30 to build a school house at Newbold Verdon and directed the trustees to 'appoint a schoolmaster to teach gratis the children of the said parish to write and read.'[1] The schoolmaster was to be paid £20 per year.[2] In 1819 this school taught 30 children.[3]

In 1835, there were two infant schools 'in which 40 children of both sexes are instructed at the expense of their parents', in addition to the school endowed by Lord Crewe, which now had 60 pupils, most of whom also attended Sunday School in the village, where 60 children of both sexes were taught gratuitously.[4] The schoolmaster of the endowed school had to cover the cost of repairs from his salary, and by 1839 this building was described as being 'in a bad state'.[5] In about 1843, the trustees and rector jointly paid £70 to enlarge the school.[6] By 1847, most of the older boys attended Lady Noel Byron's School in Kirkby Mallory during the week, and the Sunday School at Newbold Verdon at the weekend. The girls and the very young boys attended a dame's school.[7] There was no master at the endowed school in 1863,[8] the income being insufficient, but 15 boys and 5 girls were being educated there in 1867,[9] although by 1871 it had closed.[10]

On 30 March 1851, 120 Sunday scholars were in attendance during the morning and 120 attended in the afternoon;[11] evidently the poorer parishioners were keen to receive an education. There was no nonconformist Sunday School that year, but there was a Methodist Sunday School by 1905, when the trustees of the schoolrooms, chapel and house borrowed £30 by mortgage from the Methodist Chapel Aid Association.[12]

In November 1870, rector W.S. Cole, 'Chairman of the committee for building a school etc.' signed terms of union with the National Society, and applied to them for a grant towards the cost of building a school for 120 children on glebe land, to replace the endowed school. The trustees of Lord Crewe's endowment were approached concurrently and asked to release their land to provide a house for the master.[13] Estimates for the build were £580 for the school and £150 for the teacher's house, but instructions about the accommodation required were still awaited from the Education Department. The committee supposed there should be a separate room for the infants and 'a room at any rate in addition to the principal room'. They had raised £118 18s. 5d. by voluntary contributions and a further £290 1s. had been promised.[14] A grant of £50 was voted, but problems arose as the charity was in Chancery, and the Endowed Schools Commissioners withheld sanction to

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[1] *Further Report of Charity Commissioners*, Parl. Papers 1830 (462), p. 130.
[2] *Ibid*., p. 131.
[3] *Education of the Poor Digest*, Parl. Papers 1819 (224), p. 459.
[4] *Education Enquiry,* Parl. Papers 1835 (62), p. 493.
[5] *Report of Charity Commissioners,* Parl. Papers 1839 (163), p. 200
[6] White, *Hist., Gaz.* (Sheffield, 1863), p. 700.
[7] National Society, *Church School Inquiry, County of Leicester, 1846-47*, p.10.
[8] White, *Hist., Gaz.* (Sheffield, 1863), p. 700.
[9] *Schools Inquiry Commission*, Parl. Papers 1867-8 [3966-XV], p. 118.
[10] *Elementary Education*, Parl. Papers 1871 (201), p. 208.
[11] TNA, HO129/413/11.
[12] ROLLR, DE 7611/279.
[13] CERC, National School file, Newbold Verdon (uncatalogued), hereafter CERC, grant application, 1870.
[14] *Ibid.*

the proposals until a scheme had been agreed.[15] The National Society refused to accept the first proposal, which involved an exchange of glebe for the smaller piece of land occupied by the original school, and meanwhile building costs were rising.[16] The National Society did offer '£20 towards fittings and other material'.[17] The deadlock was resolved in 1876, when a new mixed school and schoolhouse were built costing £1500.[18] This school was enlarged in 1884 to accommodate 170 children,[19] and had 150 children on its books in 1891.[20]

Following the 1902 Education Act and the creation of Leicestershire Local Education Authority, a new council school opened on 4 April 1910 for infants and juniors,[21] with older children taught at the parochial school.[22] The latter was described in 1912 as 'senior, mixed', and both schools had an average of 105-6 pupils.[23] Pupil numbers at the parochial school declined, and in 1930 the local education authority decided to enlarge the council school to take all children under 11, with all older children to go to Ibstock.[24] The remaining 39 children at the parochial school transferred to the council school in September 1930, along with their headmaster and an uncertificated assistant; the headmistress of the council school had resigned at the close of the previous term.[25] In 1939, while 10 pupils left for Ibstock Modern school when they reached 11, two went to Broom Leys (Coalville) and two to Bosworth Grammar School'.[26] When the school opened for the new term on 6 September 1939, 9 evacuees joined the classes; the log book does not record where they came from.[27]

There was considerable house building in the village in the 1950s,[28] and the number of pupils in the council school grew rapidly: in September 1953 there were 142 pupils,[29] in September 1954 there were 249.[30] An additional classroom was built in 1954, and further accommodation was hired until 1956, when two more classrooms and a hall were built.[31]

In 1976 there were 500 children in attendance.[32] Today the non-denominational primary school is the former county school which now has 11 class rooms, and accommodates 200 four to eleven year olds. Year 6 leavers typically attend Market Bosworth High School.[33]

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[15] CERC, letter from Cole, 10 Apr. 1872.
[16] CERC, letters 27 Jan. and 4 Mar. 1875.
[17] CERC, Reply to Cole, 04/03/1874.
[18] *Kelly's Dir. Leics. and Rutland* (1891), p. 768.
[19] *Ibid*.
[20] *Ibid*.
[21] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 4 Apr. 1910, p. 1.
[22] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 5 Sep. 1910, pp. 5-6.
[23] *Kelly's Dir. Leics. and Rutland* (1912), p. 582.
[24] CERC, letter 5 June 1930.
[25] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 31 Jul. 1930, 2 Sep. 1930.
[26] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 6 Sept. 1939, p. 248.
[27] *Ibid*.
[28] ROLLR, DE 4901/1, inspection report, loose between pp. 29-30.
[29] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 7 Sep. 1953
[30] ROLLR, E/LB/233/1, 4 Sep. 1954
[31] ROLLR, DE4901/1, 1961.
[32] ROLLR, DE4901/1, 1974.
[33] 'About Us', http://www.newboldverdonprimaryschool.co.uk/ourschool.html, [accessed 30 July 2013].