

Our school impact on the community



As a member of the Valley community, what does Valley school mean to you?

Is it important to you? Why?

Do you think everyone in the Shortlands community would say Valley is important? Why?

Valley provides lots of teaching and learning but does it provide anything else to the community?

Valley has been providing these services for many years. Let's have a look at some old maps of the area.

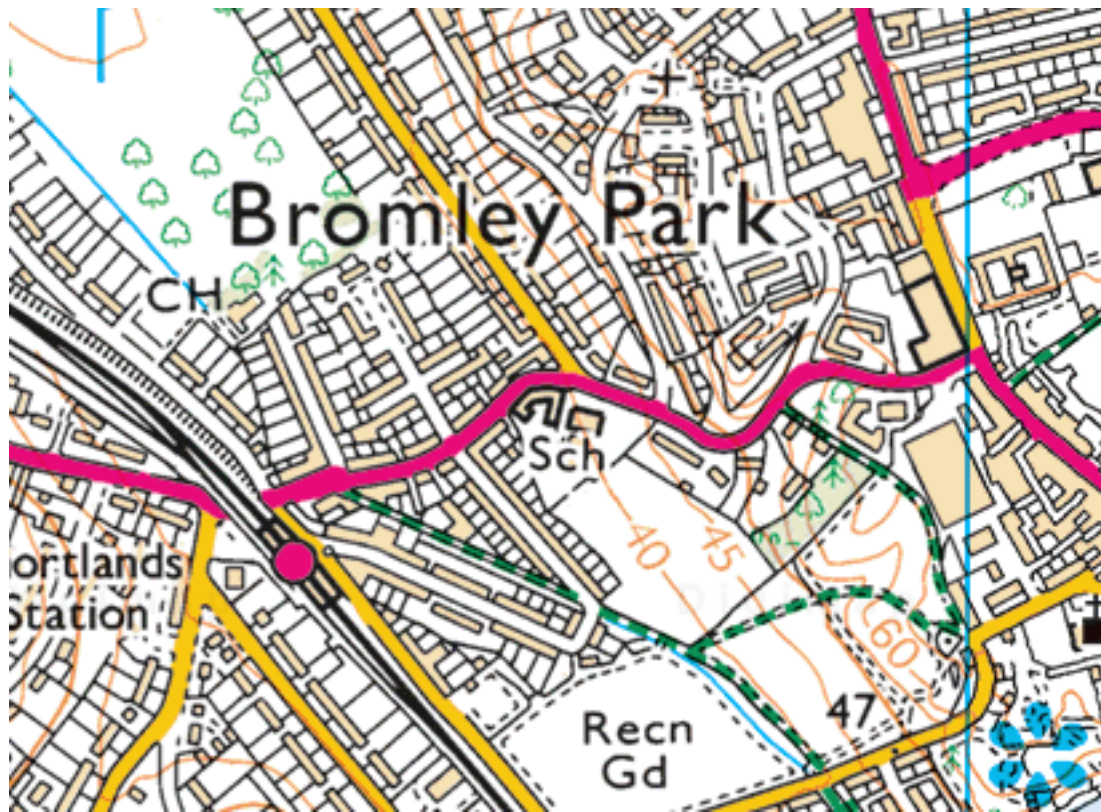
<https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/roam/map/schools/br20da/fulged7423>



1890



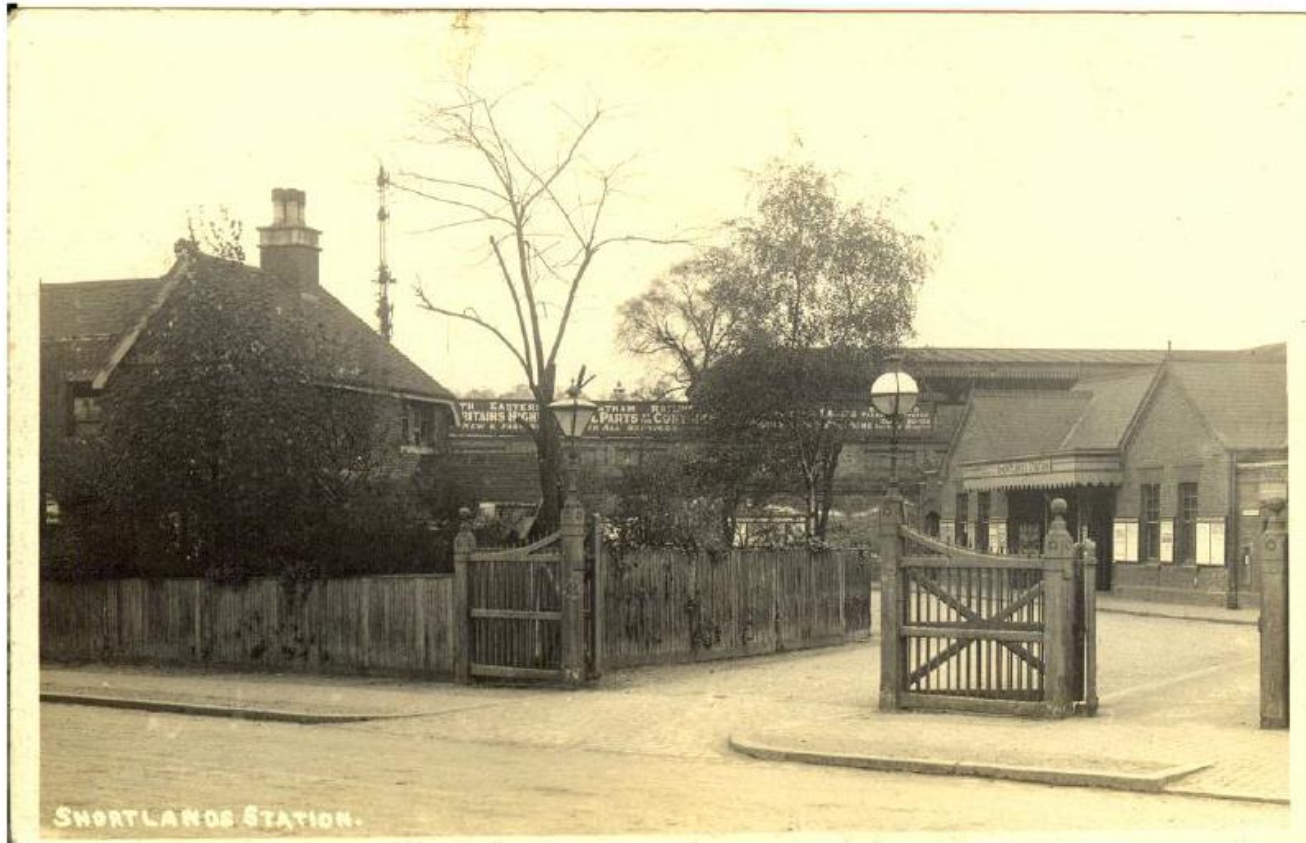
1950



Today

What things do you notice have stayed the same?

1858



Valley school has also been in the community for well over 100 years and it has seen lots of changes.

THURSDAY, MAR

SCHOOL BLAZE: ARSON PROBE

• Ransacking before alarm

By Melinda Conquest

BROMLEY CID are this week probing possible arson following a blaze last Saturday afternoon which destroyed two mobile classrooms at Valley Road Primary School, Shortlands.

Police have found out that shortly before the fire, a nearby mobile classroom had been broken into and ransacked. Several previous break-ins have been reported at the school—but this was the first fire there in recent times.

No-one was injured, but school caretaker Mr William Blockley had a narrow escape when glass from exploding windows just missed him.

The fire was first spotted just before 4 p.m. by a resident of nearby Recreation Road, who alerted the fire brigade. Appliances from Bromley, Beckenham and Woodside were called to the scene.

Within minutes Mr Blockley was also informed and rushed to the building.

A fire approached it was just smoking, but suddenly one of the classrooms went up in flames," Mr Blockley told me.

"The heat was tremendous and as I went forward to open a gate for the firemen the windows in the

second classroom blew out and I was very nearly hit by flying glass."

The buildings had been locked up since Friday evening. Both stand at the rear of the playground, in full view of dozens of houses in adjoining roads—but no-one was seen in the vicinity at the time.

"I just can't understand how no-one was seen as it was broad daylight when the classrooms were broken into," said head teacher of the infant department, Mrs Beryl Lindley.

Mrs Lindley was called to the school shortly after the blaze was discovered, as the headmistress was ill in bed, and the deputy head was away at the time.

Third-year pupils who were based in the damaged classrooms have been accommodated in another part of the school—one class in the canteen and another in a spare classroom.

"Fortunately we had some spare space in the school as we are managing without too much difficulty," said Mrs Lindley.

"But it is a great pity to think that nearly a year's hard work by children and teachers has gone up in smoke," she added.



VALLEY SCHOOL'S caretaker, Mr William Blockley, in front of the burnt-out block. Police suspect arson.

No. 53
To be filed.

BROMLEY SCHOOL BOARD,

School.

MEMORANDUM.

Your Child James was absent from School (as was too late to be marked), this morning.
Be good enough to write the cause on the other side.

Geo Coppin Head Teacher
1/15 1898

N.B.—Children are required to attend School punctually and regularly every time it is open.
The School hours are: 9 till 12 and 2 till 4.30.

Sir
The reason E. Field has not been to school is on account of having Scarlet fever in the house of Field.

No. 61522
To be filed.

BROMLEY SCHOOL BOARD,

School.

MEMORANDUM.

Your Child Frank Khee was absent from School (as was too late to be marked), this morning.
Be good enough to write the cause on the other side.

Geo Coppin Head Teacher
1/17 1898

N.B.—Children are required to attend School punctually and regularly every time it is open.
The School hours are: 9 till 12 and 2 till 4.30.

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Form E.17 (revised)

School Valley County Primary

Report for Year Ending July 30th 1946

Name Donald Cooper

Class III

General Report. Donald takes life too easily, we feel sure that he could do better. He is attentive and obliging, but lacks enthusiasm. He is shy and retiring by nature, but seems to have ability if he would only develop it. Mechanical Arithmetic is very good, but more effort is needed for problem work. English work is good and he has some musical ability.

School Attendance: Possible Attendance 383 Actual Attendance 362

Times late -

Times Absent 21

(Signed) C. L. Brittain Class Teacher.

(Signed) M. Faunce Head Teacher.

K.C.P. 4M/6/45.

BROMLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

MEMORANDUM.

Your Child J. Marrett was absent from School on 1st to 3rd, this morning (again).
Be good enough to write the cause on the other side.

Geo Coppin Head Teacher. 2/5 1898

N.B.—Children are required to attend School punctually and regularly every time it is open.
The School hours are: 9 till 12 and 2 till 4.30.

Reasons for absence 1898

Been away to St Leonards
for a month and thank
you for marking him absent
when you had a Medical
Certificate to show that
he was unfit for school
G Brown

MARGARET CORBETT

It may be of interest to give my earliest memories of my first, and only year, at the Valley School, 1935 - 1936.

My teacher was Miss Stoney, a very kind and loving person to small children. There being no pre-school or nursery classes in those days, going to school on the first day was the first time I had left my mother so it began, and continued to be, very tearful. Many times Miss Stoney sat me on her lap to comfort me in those first few weeks.

We learned to write in sand trays, using our fingers, before going on to pencil and paper. We had coloured beads, not on a frame, to teach us to count, add and subtract, and also had bricks, which resembled gingerbread in colour, to help us although I cannot recall in what context. In all things we were taught, there was a progression in the items used in order to encourage us. We were given hard, evil smelling green plasticine with which to model everyday objects, and when we were capable of making a recognisable object, we could then use softer, multi-coloured strips of plasticine. The girls were taught to knit and sew (yes, at five years of age). To sew we started by using dark green tough wool and coarse hessian, which made small fingers very sore. Once we had mastered the art of pushing the needle in and out, and counting the threads to make each stitch the same length, we then graduated to softer thread and material. We learned to knit with large wooden needles with very pointed ends and the same dark green wool. When we could cast on, and knit a plain stitch, we were allowed to choose coloured needles and wool, and were shown how to knit the purl stitch, to cast off, and to make simple patterns of moss stitch, basket stitch and rib.

There were no facilities for having dinner - our mid-day meal, at school, and as far as I can recall all children went home at 12 noon and returned at 2.00 pm. We took lunch - "eleveneses" - in a paper bag on which our name had been written, and this was put in a basket to be handed out at the appropriate time. This was accompanied by a small bottle of milk, I believe specially prepared for schools, and in winter was warmed on the radiators. Since I loathed milk in any form this was another occasion for me to burst into tears and had to be encouraged to drink this by sitting on Miss Stoney's lap. In the afternoons we were encouraged to have a nap by resting our arms on our desk and putting our heads down. At this time we had a story read to us. The one song I recall being taught to us by Miss Stoney ran "There once was a rabbit who developed the habit of twitching the end of his nose...." and this was accompanied with actions. On Fridays we were rewarded by being given a wonderful tasting boiled sweet, resembling marbles, and which were kept in a large jar.

Special national occasions were marked by working on what is known today as a "project". Prior to armistice day we would copy on to tough white paper the shape of the war memorial which had been drawn on the blackboard. We then cut, with blunt round-ended scissors, poppies from scarlet gummed paper. We then made appropriate designs with the poppies on our white card. This feat was beyond me and I recall being made to stand at the teacher's desk in disgrace and in tears. (Not Miss Stoney on this occasion!) On Empire Day (no longer a day of celebration) we made flowers from red, white and blue tissue paper and strung these around the classroom. We also had posters displayed showing how people lived, dressed and worked in the countries of the empire. On this special day, we had a half-day holiday and it always seemed to be sunny! Since I was ill for a number of weeks prior to Christmas of this year I know nothing of the Christmas celebrations.

Dear Sir
My child Willis is
not able to come to school
on account of a rash which
has come out on his
but is not sufficiently ill
to send for a doctor.
Yours truly
L. Hobbs

BROMLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

School.

MEMORANDUM.

Your child Tom Jones was absent
from school for two late on Monday
6/1/44

(Be good enough to write the cause on the other side.)

Geo. C. Hill Head Teacher.

N.B. - Children are expected to attend School punctually and regularly every day that it is open.
The School hours are: 9 till 12 and 2 till 4.30.

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Form E.17 (revised).

School Valley County Primary

Report for Year Ending August 3rd 1945

Name Donald Cooper Class II

General Report. Donald is an intelligent boy but his work is sometimes spoilt by careless mistakes. In written English he lacks the power of expressing his ideas clearly. With sustained effort he should do well. He is a cheerful, willing boy.

School Attendance : Possible Attendance 356 Actual Attendance 344

Times late 1 Times Absent 12

(Signed) P. M. Vaughan Class Teacher.

(Signed) O. J. Joyce Head Teacher.



Your task today is to write down things that you would like to find out about the history of Valley.

These could include:

Age

Headmasters

Changes to the building

Famous pupils of the past.

Date of first opening

We will then try to find the answers from some different sources.

