



A HISTORY OF THE
**TUDOR
HALL**

At Barnet College



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful thanks are due to Mr. D. Marshall for research into papers and documents and for writing the bulk of this history; to the Barnet Museum, the Borough Architect, Mr. Jennings, John Maltby Limited, and the GLC Photographic Unit for the supply of photographs; and to all colleagues in the College and Gateway House who assisted in the compilation and production of these notes.

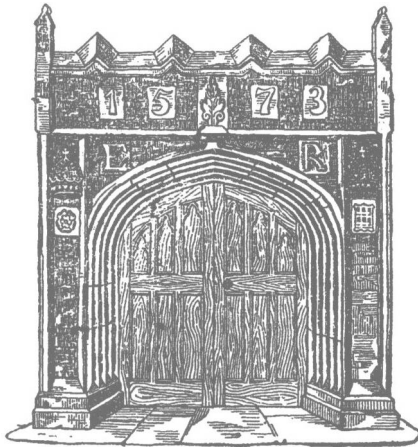
For those interested in the story of the Grammar School, the most complete history is that by Cecil L. Tripp - A History of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Barnet, first published in 1935 by W. Heffer & Sons Limited, Cambridge, and at present out of print, but available in libraries.

Revised design and desk-top publishing 1992 by John Marsh, Principal Lecturer Art & Design at Barnet College using Aldus Pagemaker Software.



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The History of the Tudor Hall

The Tudor Hall with its contrasting architecture adds a note of dignity and tradition to the modern system of buildings which surrounds it. Its origin is shrouded in some doubt, for while a charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1573 for the building of a grammar school "*which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth*", there is no definite information about how the site was obtained or how the money was raised to build the school.

The Charter was granted "*At the humble request of our well-beloved cousin and counsellor Robert Earl of Leicester, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, Master of our Horse, in behalf of our faithful and liege subjects the inhabitants of our town of Barnet within the counties of Hertford and Middlesex*" and ordained that "*for the future there shall be one Common Grammar School in the said town of Barnet or near the same which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, for the education, bringing up and instruction of boys and youth, to be brought up in grammar and other learning, and the same to continue for ever, and the said School for one Master and one Usher for ever to continue and remain*". The charter further decreed that "*there shall be for ever four-and-twenty discreet, honest men who shall be and shall be called the governors of the said Free Grammar School*".

Earl Dudley, Earl of Leicester, was the favourite of Queen Elizabeth and the husband of Amy Robsart and it is interesting to trace his connection with Barnet through one of the original governors, Henry Knolles. Knolles was first cousin once removed to Queen Elizabeth and if not a Barnet man must have been closely connected with the place, for his wife Margaret was buried at Hadley in 1606. He was Leicester's brother-in-law, for the Earl married his sister Lettice some years after Amy Robsart's death in 1560.

The term Free referred to in the Charter indicated freedom from ecclesiastical control rather than free in the paying sense.

Chauncey writing in "Antiquities of Hertfordshire" stated:

Queen Elizabeth erected a Free School in the same street, a fair pile of building of Brick for the Master and Usher and endowed it with a house of £71 per annum and Alderman Owen gave about 8d. per annum towards the maintenance hereof, to be paid by the Company of Fishmongers in London; and appointed twenty-four governors whereof thirteen make a Court, and they choose the master and usher who are bound to teach nine gratis and rest of the Children in the Parish at a Crown by the Quarter."

Clutterbuck writing about the same time in the "History of Hertfordshire" supported this information. F. C. Cass, however, writing later in "Queen Elizabeth's School (1870) refuted these statements, and claimed that there was no reference either to the giving of a site or an endowment and there was no reference to this in the Charter. Also Chauncey's statement could hardly have been correct since in the minute books of 1634 it declares the schoolmaster had not yet any other certain stipend or salary than that derived from Mr. Lonison's benefaction.

Cass claimed that the school was erected by Edward Underne who had been rector in the parish since 1567. C. L. Tripp, the most recent authority, writing in 1935, supports Cass's claims. The Queen evidently provided nothing more than the Charter, and Underne, influenced very much by the educational pioneering of Colet (the first High Master of St. Paul's) raised all the money for the building and probably negotiated the provision of a site. The land on which the building is erected was originally in the hands of Anthony Maynard of South Mimms who transferred it to the Governors of the School in 1597.

Underne by his efforts persuaded the Corporation of London in 1575 to authorize collections for the school in all the churches of the City of London and its liberties, and in the records of the following year this statement occurs:

"It was ordered that precepts shall be made and directed unto every Alderman of this City that they cause the churchwardens of every parish church within their said ward to make true report unto this court in writing.....that sums of money hath been collected and gathered within every parish church in the same ward towards the erecting of a school in Barnet in the County of Middlesex".

(A precept was a notice of authorization).

Underne involved himself deeply in the venture and a letter written by the direction of the Privy Council in 1577 stated:

"Edward Underne, parson of Barnet, by means of his great charges as well as in procuring a coporation for the erection of a free school in Barnet, as also building of the house and maintenance of the Schoolmaster and Usher of the same hath not only bestowed the great part of his substance but is also indebted to others in the sum of £200 to his utter undoing unless by good means he be relieved."

The money was eventually raised and Chauncey describes the School in 1700 as *"a fair pile of brick"*. It faced the parish church and had a turret at either end of the front. The interior measured 55ft. long, 21 1/2 ft. wide and it had an average height of 16 1/2 ft. The dormitories were added a few years later as soon as funds permitted and were approached by a staircase in the eastern turret. About the same time the pillar which supports the upper floor in the centre was erected. Evidence regarding this was provided by the workmanship in the timbers of the flooring examined in 1871 by Tom White, the architect of the new buildings.

There was also a large open fire place in the south wall of the schoolroom. The small buildings at the back were probably erected between 1634-7 for in 1644 reference is made to *"the new addition of building on the backside of the School"*. Behind the school there was a well (covered when the new buildings were erected) and the *"domestic offices"* which appear to have been thatched. From that date until the nineteenth century the buildings remained more or less unchanged.

The provision of an endowment to pay the salary of the school master and maintain the buildings raised more problems particularly after the

City Corporation refused to provide any more money, stating in their reply to the request that :

Where the follower of the suit hath already received of the City about £300 and we alway have been ready to do what we have been able, we may not now be moved to press our citizens farther than we have hope to obtain with good contentment".

The situation was finally saved by the benefaction of £100 (the modern equivalent would be approximately £3,600) "*given by one John Lonison, citizen and goldsmith of London for the good of the School*".

The gift was made in the 1580's and for many years the interest on this money provided the only salary of the schoolmaster. The first master was a William Moffett who apparently not only taught, but administered the school as well for when he left in 1591 the governors requested

"that you will make your personal appearance before us at the school house in Barnet on Tuesday, be eight of the clock in the morning next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel ensuing the date hereof, not only to make your account of such sum and sums of money as have been by you received unto the use of the said School, but also to satisfy and pay all such arrearages as you shall be found in upon the same account, whereof we pray you not to fail".

The salary at this time was about £10 a year - the interest accruing on Lonison's gift.

While interesting from the historian's point of view, it was a poor comment upon the building that within twenty years of its building the School needed repairs.

In April 1594 Thomas Hitchcocke, a Governor was authorized "*to expand or lay out such sums of money for the repairing and amending of the said School as unto him should seem expedient*" and it is fortunate that some of the bills concerning these repairs have been preserved.

To Robert Lee - the carpenter	18/6
Item for carpenter making a cupboard	1/-
To Bonns the Smith	6/10
To Goader the Brickburner	8/4
Item for flooring the entry with brick	9d
To Beamment - The Mason	11/6
_____ ? for pale cleavings	3/6
Item for making a table frame	6d
Item for sawyers	2/2
The nayles for the pales	4/6
Item for glass blowing downe in the chambre	2/6
The nayles for the privie	1/3
Item for lime	2/-
Item for one locke,two keys nayles andhinges for the privie	3d
Item for carter for carrying timber	1/-

These accounts were probably kept by the master of the time, a certain John Boyle, who later records various amounts received from individual Governors and the manner in which the money had been expended leaving a balance of 9/9d. in hand. He adds -

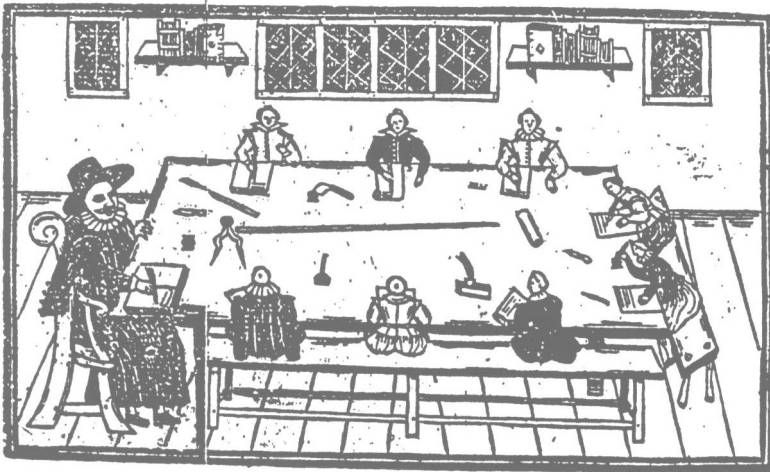
*"Besides these payments our School is indebted as followeth:
To Mr. Moxey for boards 42/- for the which I have been arrested.
To Mr. Hall for boards 27/- for the which I am likely to be arrested."*

However, this did not materialize, for the Governors paid the amount by a special levy.

In 1598 Underne's plan was completed, for not only was a Schoolmaster appointed but also an Usher, a Mr. Edmond Ryder, who had "leave to teach the grammar and to write, but no otherwise, and to make his best profit for the same, not jarring nor disagreeing with the Schoolmaster thereof, and we require them both to agree friendly and lovingly-Schoolmaster and Usher." Finally the regulations for the conduct of the School were drafted in 1612. Of the eleven draft regulations only two are noted as having been accepted by the Governors. They are as follows:

i) *That no Scholar be admitted to be taught in that School until he be first allowed by two of the Governors at the least, and the same allowance first entered into the aforesaid book (a minute book suggested earlier in the draft), for which nothing shall be given or taken but only of the child of each foreigner 2/- and of every townsman's child 12d. which shall be employed wholly in a stock for repairing the schoolhouse from time to time.*

ii) *That some special place be appointed in the Church for Schoolmaster and all his scholars to sit together upon each Sabbath day; and that each scholar dwelling in the town or parish upon pain of six jerks (lashes) shall ever Sabbath day morning and evening, before service and before the end of the last peal, come to the Schoolhouse and orderly from thence attend their said Schoolmaster to the Church, whereby they may be seen to come orderly together with him, and not negligently or in uncomely sort."*



Wood-cut of a Tudor Schoolroom.

In addition it was ordered:

iii) *That in choice of Governor hereafter, there shall always be contained eight dwellers within the town of Barnet, to be parcel to the whole number of twenty-four Governors.*

iv) *That there shall be twice every year a meeting of the Governors at the School in Barnet viz. upon every Ash Wednesday and every Michelmas Day to consult the business touching the School, etc."*



The Elizabethan Schoolroom,
from a moral treatise of 1569

Later in 1634 under the title of "Six rules and Directions for the Government of the School", the Governors drew up and approved the following full set of regulations:-

Orders and Directions for the Government of the School

(Approved by the Governors of the School 19th August, 1634)

Inprimis That none bee admitted Schoole M^r of y^e sayd Schoole but such a one as shall be and continue of sound religion, of honest behaviour, and competent learning, and discretion to instruct and governe youth: And beside such as shall bee lawfully admitted into holy Orders, and shall bee well approved by the Lord Bishop of London for the time being.

2 *It'm if the number of Schollers repairing to the schoole so require That the said Schoolemaister shall procure to his helpe a fitte and able Usher, provided that before hee bring such Usher into the said schoole hee have the approbation of the major part of the Governo^{rs}*

3 It'm That the Schoole M^r, as alsoe the Usher (when there shall bee any) shall at all times of keeping the schoole open reside in and about the said Schoole. And that one of them at least bee alwayes at Schoole times in y^e said schoole to looke unto, order, and instruct the Schollers there And that neither the Schoole M^r nor Usher, unlesse hindred by sicknes, bee absent above one day in the weeke at the most from the said Schoole, nor such one day without urgent occasion And that y^e Schoole Maister and Usher bee not both absent together in any one day, and that whensoever the Schoole Maister is absent in case hee have no Usher, he procure some other able and fitte man to supply his place in his absence, for the governing and instructing of his schollers.

4 It'm That a Register bee made and kept in a paper booke for that purpose of all Schollers now being or hereafter to bee admitted unto the Schoole And that none bee admitted thereunto but male children not touched with any infectious disease such as can read English perfectly and as are fitte to bee set to learne Accidence or Grammar And that upon admissions of them, no greater summe or reward bee taken or exacted then as followeth viz. Of children borne or whose parents reside in the parish of Barnett two shillings a peece, of other children foure shillings a peece And after they are so admitted, no more than twenty shillings p^a annum to bee paid quarterly shall bee taken or exacted of schollers borne or whose parents reside in the parish of Barnett as for their teaching, unlesse their parents or friends will voluntarily and freely give more, but for other Schollers it is left at large for the Schoole Maister to take for their teaching as hee and their parents and friends shall agree

5 It'm That upon every Saturday at one a clock in the afternoone a full houre at least bee spent by the Schoole Maister himselfe in the catechising of his schollers, and instructing them in the tenne commandments especially and in other the principles of religion

6 It'm That some convenient place in Barnet Churce bee assigned to the Schoole Maister, Usher and Schollers to sit together, and there to bee present at the whole common prayers, and at all sermons preached there every Sunday and holiday, and such of the Schollers as shall bee appointed by the Schoole Maister shall take notes in wrighting of the sermons, and such their notes shall present to their M^r on Munday morning, and praepositours shall bee appointed to take the names of all Schollers absent from Service or sermon or playing or misspending their time there

7 It'm That the Schoole M^r doe not by any meanes suffer any manner of swearing, blaspheming or cursing by any of his Schollers, either in schoole or abroad And that hee bee carefull to inflict speedy and sharpe punishment upon every of his Schollers who shall offend therein

8 It'm That the Schoole Maister have a special care that his Schollers bee kept from drunkennes, and from haunting alehouses or tipling houses or any houses or places where unlawfull games are used, and if any of them bee inclined or drawne to any such places, that they bee speedily and severely corrected in the Schoole before their fellowes with declaration of the cause of such their correction And if correction will not reclaime, that such a one bee banished and put out of the schoole

9 It'm That upon every schooleday all the Schollers come duely to Schoole at the calling of the schoole bell, betweene sixe and seaven a clock in the morning And that the Schoole Maister or Usher doe then publiquely in the Schoole read prayers according to the booke of common prayer, and upon Wednesdayes and Fridayes reade the Litany there And that they continue at schoole every morning untill eleaven a clock, and that in every afternoone of every schooleday not being halfe holyday, the schollers resort to the schoole at one of the clock and there stay untill five a clock And that a little before every their going from schoole at eleaven and five a clock all the schollers sing ashort psalme in English, and one of the eldest Schollers say one or two short prayers in Latine

10 It'm That no leave to play from the schoole or Schoole-house bee given but onely twice in the weeke at the most, viz. on Tuesdayes and Thursdayes in y^e afternoone and then not before two a clock

11 It'm That the Schoole M^r shall weekly appoint two of his schollers such as are studious and sober to bee Praepositours for that weeke, and to take and give him dayly notes in wrighting of all schollers absent from Schoole or Church or not coming thither in due time And the Schoole Maister to correct with the feruler such as shalbee defaultours therein

12 It'm That every scholler as hee shall bee able, shall bee instructed and taught Qui mihi discipulus in Lillies Grammar And that the same rules bee once every weeke read out and construed publiquely and aloud by the Schoole Maister, all his schollers then being about him, and silently attending and listening to him

13 It'm That orations in latine bee publiquely made in the schoole once every weeke by some of the best schollers, and that exercises in latine both in prose and verse bee made by the Schollers as they shall bee able foure dayes a weeke, and shalbee perused and examined by the schoole Maister himselfe

14 It'm That the Schollers in some of the highest forms shalbee held to speake nothing but latine in the Schoole And if they speake English to be punished by the feruler

15 It'm That the Schoole M^r or Usher be carefull that they doe not give any immoderate correction to any scholler And that they doe not strike them on or about the head, necke, backe, shoulders or belly with the ferula or stumpe end of y^e rodde



A grammar school seal
" Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child "

16 It'm There being an ancient order that the parson (pro tempore) of the parish of Barnett shall not bee Schoole Maister And M^r Milward the now parson being one of the governours, and so it being likely that his successors for the time shalbee chosen governo^rs M^r Milward is prayed by the rest of the present Governo^rs, and in like manner it is desired of his succesours, that they would carefully visit the schoole once every moneth at least, and examine the schollers, and specially looke into the observation of these present orders And as cause shall bee informe the Governo^rs how the Schoole is ordered, and in what state it is and shalbe from time to time

17 It'm The Governours being desirous that this schoole w^{ch} is situate in Chipping Barnet, the church of which towne is dedicated to St John Baptist, may have relation (though but as a cell) to the great and flourishing Schoole under the government of the hono^{ble} and right wth Company of Merchant Taylours London, doe order and give special charge to the Schoole Maister, and if the sayd hono^{ble} and right wth Company shall bee pleased to send any of their Schollers whom they shall thinke fitte for health sake or for any other respect to this schoole that such Schollers bee readily entertained, and ordered there will all due respect And further that if any of the Wardens or other Governo^{rs} or Maisters of the said honorable and right woth Company or any the Schoole Maisters of their schoole bee pleased to looke into this schoole that the Schoole Maister upon notice thereof doe provide a gratulatorie oration in latine or English to bee publiquely delivered by one of his schollers for their entertainment and welcome

A memorandum appended to the regulation states:

"that a parcel of ground not exceeding four acres and lying next the backside of the school be bought and added to the School, well enclosed with a high brick wall, and not to be converted to profit, but for the recreation of the scholars, which when it shall be procured, will be of many good consequences, namely for sweetness, health, fitting and honest recreation of the scholars, and chiefly for the keeping them together upon play days from wandering and running into the town or other places of looseness or ill example".

Unfortunately this suggestion was never carried into effect.

In 1637 further repairs had to be made to make good *"the ruins of the outward parts of the School and wall"*. The Governors provided £14.8.8. and with this sum 5,000 bricks were purchased and used in the renovation. At the same time a bell was installed, the windows glazed, the turret 'leaded' and the yard gravelled. The cost of all this was £22.7.5. and the master who paid the bill had to contribute the remaining £7.18.9. He had also paid out money for *"extraordinary charges.....in and about the School and wall.....for which he as yet hath received no satisfaction"*. This brought a total owing to him of £48.10.9. These extraordinary charges included the provision of a new pump, the making of a cellar, the building of a portal, the boarding of the Hall and kitchen, the paling of part of the garden, the thatching of *"the hovell"*, and also two pieces of wainscot set up by the said George Smallwood (the master) for which *"he is unsatisfied"*. It is probable the buildings at the back used as a library and kitchen were added about this time.

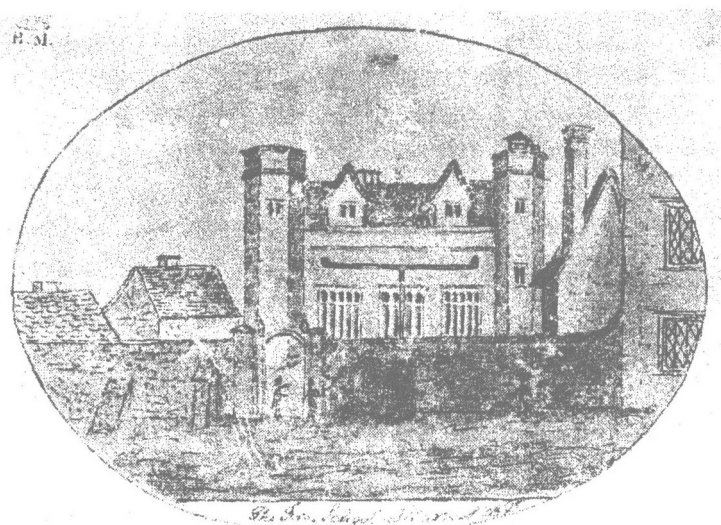


Master and Pupil with hornbook, ink stand, quill pen, an open volume for the master's use and the inevitable birch.

During the seventeenth century the disturbances of the Civil War and the Restoration caused the fabric of the Hall to be neglected. Since most of the Governors favoured the Royalist cause they had to look after their own affairs and little private money was forthcoming so that at a meeting in 1657 only six of the governors were present and contributions were requested for the repair of a schoolhouse that was "much decayed and the roof in danger to fall". These repairs continued throughout the year but the sum raised was never sufficient to cover the cost, and there appeared to be a permanent deficit. The whole of the locality was Royalist in feeling and there must have been great excitement in the school when General Monk stopped at Barnet, staying, so it is rumoured, at the "Mitre" when making his march to London to prepare the way for the Restoration of Charles. In the period 1665-66 the school was probably closed because of the Plague which ravaged the country. If one can believe Defoe, 43 people lost their lives in Barnet and Hadley.

The neglect of the school and Hall continued throughout the seventeenth century and governors' meetings were poorly attended so that by the end of the century because the affairs of the school had been so much neglected it was decided that the number constituting a quorum of governors should be reduced to seven.

The difficulty appears to have been that there was never sufficient money or interest in education during the period and indeed throughout the eighteenth century, to make sure that the building was well looked after. In 1677 there had been allotted to the school certain monies from a certain John Owen, a fishmonger and governor of the school, and during the eighteenth century another sum of money was diverted from the Elizabeth Allen Charity, but since this endowment had been originally given for a new school for girls as well as boys this did not amount to much.



The Free School (1790)

In the early part of the eighteenth century new directions were drawn up for the Master of the School:

i) *That the said schoolmaster shall diligently instruct in grammar as many of the children of the inhabitants of Chipping Barnet as the Governors of the said School, or any one or more of them shall, in writing under his or their hands, order him to teach gratis, not exceeding the number of six.*

ii) *That he shall carefully attend the said children the usual hours of teaching in the forenoon and afternoon, holidays excepted.*

iii) *That there shall be no holidays allowed by the said Master, except the usual festivals of the Church of State, and such as shall be begged or allowed by one or more of the Governors of the said School.*

iv) *That he shall take care to have the schoolroom kept clean and decent, fit for the reception of the said scholars.*

v) *That, in case the said scholars shall be few in number and the weather shall be so cold as to make it inconvenient both for them and the said Master to continue in so large a room as the schoolroom, that then he may teach the said scholars in another room where a fire can more conveniently be had, provided the scholars be duly attended and instructed there, and provided the schoolroom itself be kept in proper order.*

vi) *That, in case of any of the scholars which shall be sent to the said Schoolmaster shall suddenly be taken away from the said school he shall immediately give notice in writing to the Treasurer for the time being of the taking away of such a child or children from the said School.*

Ordered that the children to be sent to the said School shall be sent clean and free from distempers.

However, no meetings of Governors were called between 1741 and 1753, and by this time extensive repairs were again needed. In fact by 1787 when the governors met to consider the appointment of a schoolmaster the appointment was postponed because the schoolhouse "*was very ruinous and unfit for habitation*". Money was raised from the Trustees of the Elizabeth Allen land and a loan of £100 was made by the

Treasurer, Richard Hassell. The repairs were carried out but the financial arrangements were so precarious that gradually the school became a private boarding school and the fees from the boarders were used by the Master to increase his annual salary of £10. The only condition laid down was that the Master should continue to educate the foundation scholars.

The school continued to exist throughout this period but the buildings remained in a somewhat dilapidated state, and at the end of the century the condition of the buildings were such that they were *"unfit for their intended purposes"*. The endowment funds of the School being totally inadequate to meet the expenditure, the Trustees of Elizabeth Allen's charity were again asked for help, and a statement added that *"unless they will assent thereto they can no longer be accommodated with the use of the Schoolroom as the Governors will of necessity be obliged to shut up the same for a very considerable length of time"*. The Trustees reponded, but the accumulated debt made it necessary to reduce the already poor wages of the Master, and very soon the quality of the teaching deteriorated.



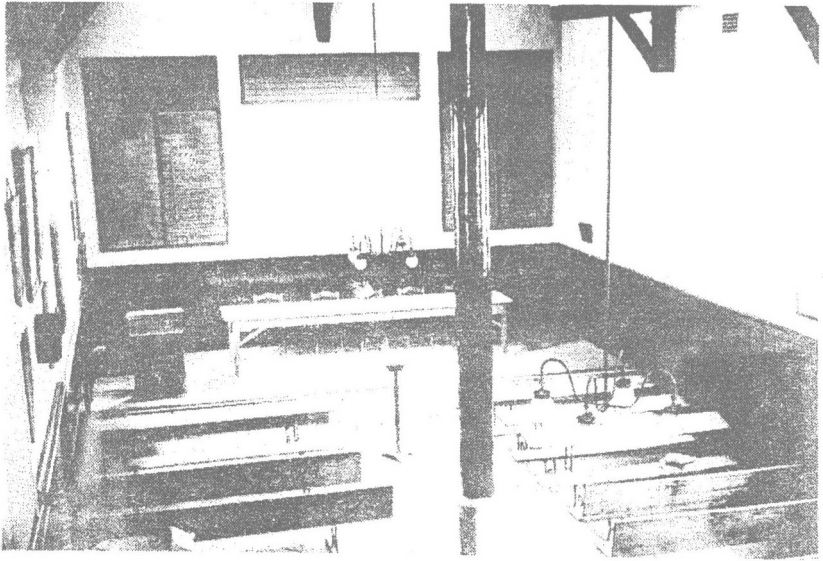
The Hall from the school playground with the Headmaster's house on the right and the Parish Church behind.



A nineteenth-century schoolmaster.

By the middle of the 19th century rumours of excessive corporal punishment by the Master, a Thomas Cox, led Dickens to make enquiries and write an article under the title, "*A Free (and Easy) School*". Barnet appears under the name of Thistledown, and Thomas Cox as Dr. Laon Blose. Dickens describes the building thus,-

"Behind the wall (is) an antiquated little building in plain brick, with a square tower on one side of it, and green little windows, the whole luxuriantly overgrown with ivy.....A schoolroom built in the old days of Queen Elizabeth, not at all large but tolerably lofty, with little windows high up and bare whitened walls, and twice as many being as it ought to hold. Against the walls a few maps, the desks and forms at which the children swarm - or seem to swarm - so narrow is the impression of the schoolroom - are undoubtedly the very desks with which the Royal Free Grammar School was furnished with when it was first built!"



Interior - late 19th Century.

This article and probably other items of publicity prompted the Governors to make a renewed effort not only to improve the quality of desks but also that of the building. A certain James Hill was asked to make a thorough survey of the building. He reported that the east wall was in a dilapidated state, the bricks being decayed, and the wall out of the perpendicular. Removal of the tiles of the roof also revealed that the roof ties were rotten and needed immediate repair. An estimate of the cost of the report came to £340.8s.6d. To cover the cost of this, the Governors raised £160 by subscription and £150 on a mortgage and the work of repair was started in 1854.

The *Barnet Gazette* of the 17th March 1858 gives us a contemporary description of the building:

"The School buildings are screened from the public road by a high wall enclosing a playground for the boys. The principal front is a dull-looking facade of brickwork flanked at each end with a clumsy octagonal turret - that on the left containing a winding staircase leading to the Master's upper apartment, and that on the right holding the bell used for calling the boys into School. The whole frontage as well as both the turrets are entirely covered with ivy. The schoolroom is on the right hand of the basement storey, and is lofty and sufficiently capacious. The Master's sitting room and domestic offices are on the left of the schoolroom".

There were three dormitories and the largest contained six bedstead each accommodating two boys. In order to supervise the boys a hinged panel was provided in each door and two of these are still to be seen today.

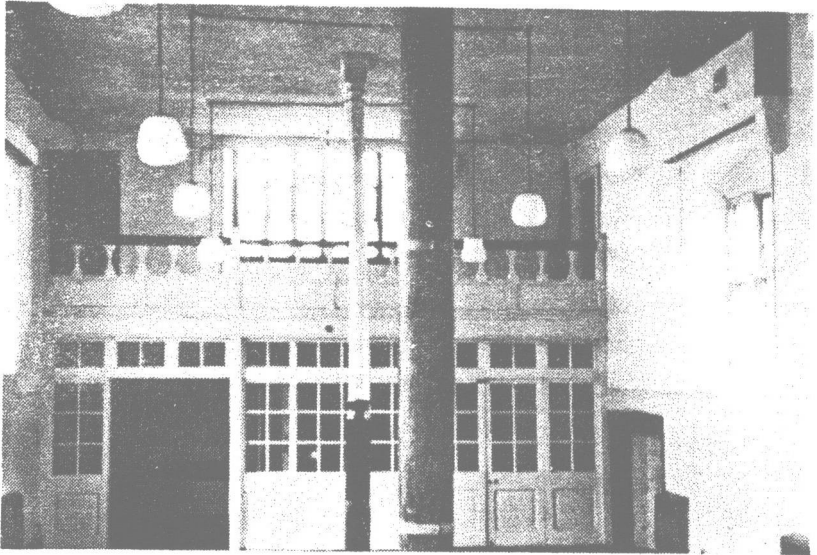
At this time there were forty-five boys in the School - five Foundation boys, fourteen boarders, and twenty-six day boys. (The public subscription for the repair now amounted to £400 and the mortgage had been paid up). The foundation scholars were taught free of expense, with the exception of a payment of 6/- a year for the use of books and firing. The fees of day boys were £3 a year for English and Latin, two guineas extra for French, and the same for drawing. The Master made his own terms for boarders, these being about twenty guineas a year for boys under twelve years of age and twenty-one guineas for boys under fourteen for board, washing, and instruction.

At this time the school appeared to become more stable and settled and continued so until in 1869 the Endowed Schools Act was passed. This Act provided for the appointment of educational endowments and for the reorganised administration of endowed schools. The Governors, anxious to get rid of their responsibility, submitted a scheme for the reorganisation of the school, and pending the change, closed the school in 1872, thus ending the first phase of the life of the establishment.

There were other important reasons for the reorganisation. Firstly during the second half of the 19th century Barnet had grown in size and importance, and the arrival of the railway in High Barnet in 1871 brought a new type of middle class resident who required secondary school education for his children. Also about this time the Visitors of Jesus Hospital (the managers of the Ravenscroft Foundation) had a large surplus of money to dispose of and in conjunction with the Charity Commissioners made a definite offer of £5,000 towards the establishing of a larger and better school. This should be divided into a Lower and Upper School, the whole under the control of one Headmaster. The number of Governors was to be reduced to twelve.

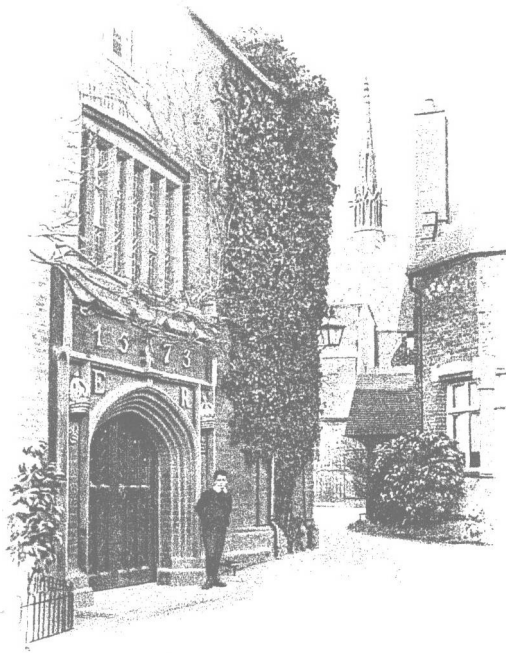
When the Governors met under the new arrangement in 1873, it was decided to extend the school by building to the south of the Hall, and consequently the nursery garden, rented from Harrow School by a man called Cornwall, was acquired for this purpose for a sum of £600. This

nursery garden contained the mulberry tree which stood in the playground and still remains today. While building new classrooms it was decided to restore the Hall.



Interior, showing Victorian screen and second pillar - before restoration.

This restoration in 1874 provided for the removal of the rooms at the east end (which had formed part of the Master's house), the construction of a new door there, the provision of a gallery to connect the staircase with the room beyond, the lowering and renovation of the floor, and the provision of a dado round the walls. One of the windows on the north side, facing Wood Street, and the large fireplace, both of which had been closed up, were re-opened. The architect found it necessary to retain a pillar which had formed part of the partition for the Master's House, to carry a long internal beam supporting the roof. In addition a small wooden turret was erected on the eastern tower for the old school bell which had been in use since 1764. At the beginning of 1879 the bell fell from its support in the turret but fortunately no damage was done.



In 1875 another $\frac{1}{4}$ acre was bought from Harrow School at a cost of £1180 and in 1876 more new classrooms were added. When the buildings were completed the Hall was only used for prayers, and calling of the roll in the morning at 9am and for the midday meal which included one glass of beer per boy at 10d. per head.

The Hall continued to play this minor role until the school on its present site was closed and moved to the new buildings adjoining Stapylton Field, off Queen's Road. When the movement of the school was being discussed in 1927, the question of the Hall's preservation was raised and enquiries were made regarding its being scheduled as an Ancient Monument*. The visitors of Jesus Hospital applied to the Charity Commissioners for sanction to buy the Tudor Hall and this was given in 1928. The site, including the Tudor Hall and buildings, was sold to them later for £1750. The transfer of the school from the old site to the new took place in the summer of 1932 and on the 26th July, the whole school assembled in the Tudor Hall for the last time and a farewell service was held.

*It is listed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1962 as Grade 1 of historical and architectural interest.

From 1932 the Hall was only used for a monthly meeting of the Jesus Charity, until the war period, 1939-1945, when it was occupied by the Ministries of Food & Pensions. In 1948 the newly formed South Herts College, as the College was then known, took over the now empty buildings for part-time and evening instruction. This soon became a full-time further education centre, and in 1957 the first new buildings, the engineering and library blocks were erected. In 1964 the old Victorian buildings that flanked the quadrangle were demolished in order to allow for an expansion of College buildings, and from April 1st 1965 the London Borough of Barnet assumed responsibility for the whole establishment. In 1968 by arrangement with the Ministries of Works & Education the Borough completely restored the Tudor Hall at a cost of £30,000 giving it the pleasant appearance it has today.



Interior after restoration.

During restoration, it was clear that the building had originally been of single storey, with an open trussed roof. The oak beams and trusses to the roof had been repaired at various times with forged iron straps, as the principal timbers had split along their length. The internal partitions were formed with wattle and clay daub covered with lime and hair plaster.



View of the roof during restoration.



View of upper floor after restoration.

The wing to the building was originally only of two storeys; during the 18th century a further storey was added by increasing the height of the brickwork and re-designing the roof with a lower pitch and using slates instead of tiles. The end wall of this wing was not bonded to the side walls and as a result movement had taken place leaving a gap between the joists and the brickwork.

The original elm floor boarding to the dormitory space was found, forming a sub-floor concealed by further joists and floor-boarding, probably put in at the beginning of the 19th century. The original roof-tiling was fixed with oak nails and pargetting of straw and dung.



Roofscape after restoration.

The work of restoration included the stripping out of the dormitory partitions and building new ones; the stripping out of the dormitory floor and the strengthening of the main truss ties with steel channels; the complete renewal of the roof (plaster work removed, existing rafters renewed where necessary and left exposed, with diagonal boarding nailed across them and then felted, battened and tiled); and the replacement of 'posts' to each of the Queen post roof trusses.

In the main hall existing Victorian tiled fireplaces were bricked up, the plaster to the ceiling was left off and the ceiling timbers left exposed. At the East end an existing Victorian glazed screen, which was designed to provide acoustic absorption and the fire protection required for the gallery link between the first floor of the S.E. wing and the N.E. turret staircase.

New electrical heating was provided together with a complete new electrical power and lighting installation. A new glazed link was built connecting the hall to a new paved courtyard and cloakroom facilities in the College.

A fabric mural was commissioned, based on an Elizabethan pillow-design and worked out in a manner similar to Tudor embroidery techniques and materials which were used at the time of the original building. The tapestry was designed and made by Gerald Holtom.

The whole restoration was carried out under the supervision of the Borough Architect by Trollope and Colls Limited.



External view of Hall as it is today



TUDOR HALL

Summary of Main Dates

- c1577 Built from money raised by first Governors of the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, together with Corporation of London collections.
- 55ft. long, 21 1/2 ft. wide, 16 1/2 ft. high
- N.B. Repairs were necessary within twenty years of its construction, and "*thereafter the repair of the building was a constant source of anxiety to the Governors*". (Tripp) e.g.
- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1634 | £22.7s.5d. |
| 1651 | £85 |
| 1704 | 'A great wind' did £30.9s.0d. damage |
| 1753 | |
| 1800 | £123.6s.6d. |
| 1806 | |
| 1853 | £240.8s.6d. |
- "Border" disputes include one from 1681 (west side), in which encroachment of school property took place. 4/- per annum paid until 1831, when it was dropped - the landlord of the offending property being abroad. Another (east side) involved a sum of 6d. per annum, but this was soon shelved.
- 1634-7 Buildings added to rear of Hall (kitchen and library).
- 1700's(early) Dormitories added (plus whipping post? This was covered with cement in 1875). Eastern end partitioned off to include a dwellinghouse for the Master.

- 1868 Jesus Hospital visitors (Ravenscroft's Foundation money helped to add buildings to the school.
- 1873 1 $\frac{1}{7}$ acres of land added (including mulberry tree) from Harrow School for £600.
- 1874 East end of Hall refurbished; rooms forming part of Master's House removed; new doorway built; gallery formed connecting spiral staircase with mezzanine room; floor lowered and renovated; dado round walls; large window and fireplace re-opened; new dormer windows to serve new rooms partitioned off in dormitory space; roof retiled; second pillar added to support floor; rendering of some outside brickwork.
- 1875 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre bought from Harrow School to build Master's House. More land (total cost £1180) added from Harrow School.
- 1876 New classrooms added to south.
- 1891 Hertfordshire County Council appealed to for funds for building a laboratory. Two sums of £300 were granted (under Technical Education Act of 1889).
- 1893 Further £150 from Hertfordshire County Council. Regular contributions from 1902.
- 1895 Hertfordshire County Council represented on Governing Body.
- 1916 Ivy stripped from Hall.
- 1925 New site for Grammar School proposed.
- 1927 Visitors of Jesus Hospital applied to Charity Commissioners for sanction to buy Elizabethan Hall and adjoining property of the 'old foundation'. Authority given 1928.

1933 Jesus Hospital (Chipping Barnet) Scheme Charity Confirmation Act fixed price at £1,750. This was paid in October. Meanwhile, the rest of the Grammar School site was bought by H.C.C. for £3,000. In July 1932 the school left the premises. Jesus Charity continued to use the Tudor Hall for a monthly meeting.

War period: Food Office, Ministry of Pensions, etc.

1948 South Herts College moved on to site.

1957 Phase I of College built.

1965/6 Phase II of College built on site of former classrooms. Master's Lodge etc. demolished to allow for new building. London Borough of Barnet assumes responsibility (April).

1968 Tudor Hall completely remodelled by London Borough of Barnet at a cost of £30,000.

Since the mid- sixties when the London Borough of Barnet assumed responsibility for the Tudor Hall and the development in phases of Barnet College, the Hall has been used by the College and the Community for leisure, recreational and artistic functions including orchestral concerts.

1992 An Artist in Residence commissioned to produce a new wall hanging for the Hall.

The Hall further refurbished by Barnet College Educational Trust in 1992/3 to include a Computer Training Centre.





Barnet College Educational Trust (BCET)

The BCET is a registered charity, formed to gain support for Barnet College from the local community. The Trust has recently celebrated it's first year, during which £25,000 has been raised, through gifts and contributions. We must build on this achievement, for the College to undertake those projects, which cannot be funded from the normal budget.

This building is of unique national historical and architectural interest. The Trust has inaugurated work on a scheme of restoration and refurbishment. Use by local people will be enhanced through a variety of educational and leisure opportunities as well as providing a centre for functions, meetings and conferences.

**Barnet College, Wood Street, Barnet,
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Printed and published by Barnet College 1992

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