



Barnett Wood Infant School

In 1906, The Temporary Ashted Council School (which is now known as Barnett Wood School) was built on farm land.

There was a need for a new school due to the fact that St Giles was overcrowded.

The new school opened to its pupils on January 7th 1907.

The very first Headmaster was called Mr J. Meddows-Taylor and he remained at the school until 1914.

One of the first infant teachers was called Miss Bertha Bumpstead.

Originally, Barnett Wood was a school for Juniors as well as Infants.

There were different playground areas and entrances for boys, girls and infants.

The first school building was finished in 1914 when there was room for 4 mixed junior classes and an infant class.

During World War 1, the school was selected to help grow food, so some of the playing field was used for growing crops.

Interestingly, St George's Church was completed in 1906 so it is about the same age as Barnett Wood School.

In 1911 there was a leather works in Woodfield which was locally known as the 'Skin Factory'. Animal skins were laid out to dry on the fields leading down to the station. It was closed in 1922.

There was a tea room, called The Rosary Tea Room, near the station and a helter-skelter for visitors who came by train.

The visitors came to visit the Roman Villa excavation on the common.

In 1923 Barnett Wood had a football team and there was still a football team in 1952.

In 1928 a small public library was opened at the school.

In World War 2 there were air raid shelters built on the field.

The new toilet extension was added after 1952.

About 20 years later the swimming pool was built. It was opened on June 16th, 1973.

In 1975 the age of pupils was limited to 5 to 8 years old and in 1993 the age of pupils was limited to 5 to 7 years old.

In May 2003, the new classroom was ready and in November 2008 building works on the new office area were completed.

You can still see the original entrances to the building.

The latest addition to the school was the Beehive, which was built in the summer of 2013 and officially opened by the Chair of Governors at the time, John Smith, in September 2013.

