

Sawston
Village College

is

90

1930-2020



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Did you know?

Sawston Village College was founded by Henry Morris. Our main hall is called the Henry Morris Hall so that we remember the contribution of this great man to our school. On the wall at the back of the Hall there is also a striking portrait of Henry Morris. This portrait was presented to the school by Henry Morris's niece, Mrs Patricia Jacques, in 2005. We are very proud that Mrs Jacques chose Sawston Village College, the first of Henry Morris's village colleges, as the custodian of this very special painting.

Next time you are in the Henry Morris Hall, make sure you take time to look at this painting and remember Henry Morris.



As well as a portrait of Henry Morris, we also have a commemorative plaque. This is on the wall outside the Fountain Court entrance to the Morris Wing (nearest the Walnut Gallery). If you were not aware of this, make sure you look out for it when you are next in that part of the school.

Did you know?

The first edition of The Fountain magazine was published in the summer term of 1954. In this first magazine we learn that pupils had been asked to contribute potential names for the magazine and that 'at least two dozen possible names were put forward'. The name 'The Fountain' was suggested by Jean Rivett in class 4A and was deemed to be the most 'fitting', and so it is that we have The Fountain magazine today. Our most recent edition of this magazine, from summer 2020, was Issue 63, suggesting either that the magazine has not been produced termly since that first edition in 1954, or that issues have not been consistently numbered.

Sawston Village College is 90

- Principal Mr Russell reflects

As the current Principal, I have the privilege of working with a team of inspiring staff who tread in the footsteps of the hundreds of professionals that have served our community so well since 1930. We are a staff that understands the rich heritage of the College and take our lead from the founding principles established by Henry Morris. In this regard, we are but the stewards of his legacy, determined to keep alive the vision and values that he espoused.

We are currently living through unprecedented times. The global pandemic has brought into sharp focus that which matters most: the health, safety and happiness of our loved ones. However, we cannot achieve this without acting collectively and supporting each other; we recognise that we are a community of families. To serve this community, we do our best to offer high quality education no matter how interrupted or how uncertain the context in which we work. This has taken considerable adjustment this year but has further demonstrated the resilience and resourcefulness of our staff and pupils alike.



The fountain after which our termly magazine is named.



Mr J Russell, Principal

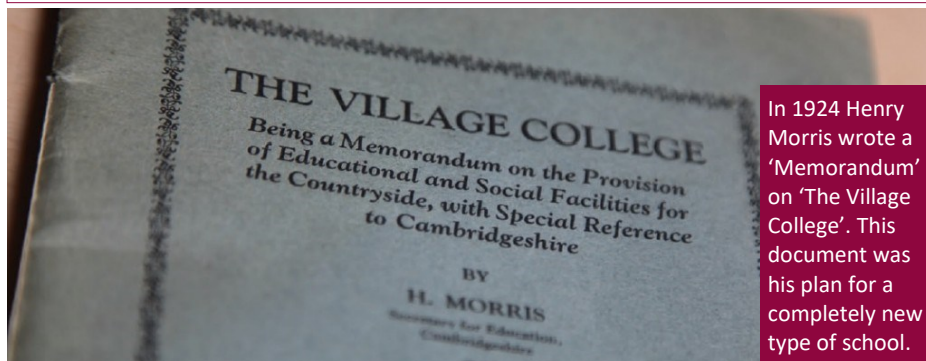
The events of this year perhaps remind us all of the importance and transformational power of education; that learning cannot start and end with formal schooling but must be ever constant and equip us with new skills and renewed hope. With imagination, creativity, innovation and curiosity our children will meet the challenges of the future. For all the staff lucky enough to work at the College, it is our privilege and pleasure to support pupils and to create opportunities for them as they take their formative steps on the next ninety-year journey towards building a better, kinder and stronger society.

As our founder Henry Morris said: 'It is the intrinsic worth of the life that the **adult** leads, the working philosophy by which he lives, the politics of the community he serves in his maturity, the amount of efficient action he contributes to the community that should be the main concern of Education.'

Did you know?

Henry Morris was born in 1889 and was Chief Education Officer in Cambridgeshire for over 30 years. He re-organised the county's education provision. He did this with imagination, determination, and vision. In 1924 he wrote a Memorandum which led to the founding of the village colleges, of which Sawston was the first. After Henry Morris died in 1961, a group of his friends decided to remember him by

setting up the Henry Morris Memorial Trust. The Trust promotes the memory of Henry Morris and his work, and also has a fund which allows it to award grants to young people aged 13-19 for travel and home-based projects. Today, Mr Peter Hains, a former Village College Principal, is the Chair of the Trust, and he gives more information about Henry Morris on the opposite page. You can also find out more about the Trust at: www.henrymorris.org.

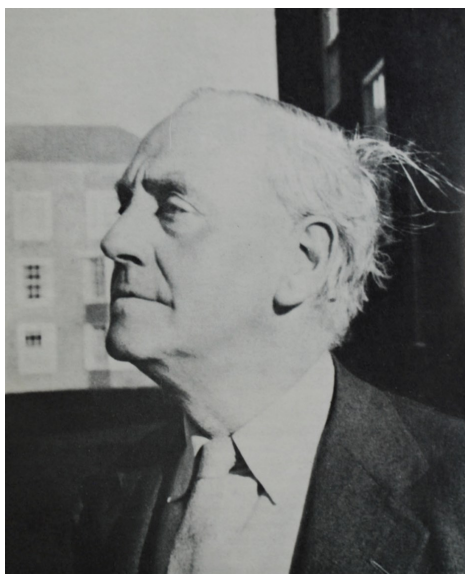


In 1924 Henry Morris wrote a 'Memorandum' on 'The Village College'. This document was his plan for a completely new type of school.

Below is an extract from Henry Morris's Memorandum, where he sets out his ambition for this new kind of school.

'The village college would change the whole face of the problem of rural education. As the community centre of the neighbourhood it would provide for the whole man, and abolish the duality of education and ordinary life. It would not only be the training ground for the art of living, but the place in which life is lived, the environment of a genuine corporate life. ... There would be no 'leaving school'! - the child would enter at three and leave the college only in extreme old age.'

Henry Morris, Memorandum, 1924



Henry Morris outside Shire Hall in Cambridge, where his office was based.

Who was Henry Morris?

Mr Hains explains

Henry Morris (1889 - 1961)

Henry Morris came from a poor family. He was one of eight children and his mother died when he was 12, leaving the children to run the family. Henry worked hard at school, was a soldier in the First World War, and then went to college.

In 1922 Henry came to Cambridge to take over an important job: he was to take charge of education in the county, and he found things in a bad way. Attendance in the schools was poor (50% at times), because the children often had to work on the land. Students were dirty and unhealthy, and the teaching was not good enough.

He found that school buildings were in a terrible condition, and students left school at 14; that was when education ended for the most part, because there were almost no facilities for adults to carry on learning after they had left school.

Over the next few years, Henry had a brilliant idea which changed education forever: he invented The Village College. His idea was that students should have schools that were well-built, with interesting architecture and lots of art on the walls. Also, the students would stay at school longer (to 15 years in secondary). The schools would have workshops, science laboratories, a library and a plot of land for learning about agriculture.

The next part of his plan was even more revolutionary: all of these facilities, at the school, would be available for adults in the community to use in the evenings and at



Mr P Hains, Chair
Henry Morris Memorial Trust

weekends. That is why we often see the lights on in Village Colleges if we drive past long after the (school-age) students have gone home. The expression 'Community Education' is well known today, and we have Henry Morris to thank for it.

Henry could be a very difficult man to work for, but he had a vision for education, and he made it happen: in 1930 Henry invited the Prince of Wales to open a superb new school: Sawston Village College, and students and staff today are rightfully proud that their school was the pioneer of such an important movement.

Sawston Village College is also proud to have offered a Community Education programme since the College's earliest beginnings. For more information about this, check out: www.sawstonadulted.org.

Did you know?

Henry Morris used the term 'Warden', rather than 'Headmaster' or 'Principal', for the person appointed in charge of the village college as he wanted to indicate that this was a new type of leader with: *'higher status and of superior calibre'*.

Henry Morris, Memorandum, 1924

In its 90-year history, Sawston Village College has had nine different Wardens/Principals.

These are:

Mr A E Filsell	1930 - 1933
Mr J G Milner	1933 - 1945
Mr M K Ross	1945 - 1957
Dr G Highmore	1957 - 1970
Mr F J Marven	1970 - 1994
Mr K McMullen	1994 - 2001
Mrs J A Cannie	2002 - 2010
Mr J M Culpin	2010 - 2018
Mr J Russell	2018 - present

The early Wardens kept a log book, like a diary, recording what had happened each day. Here is Mr Filsell's entry for the day the school opened in 1930.

1	Week ending 25 October 1930.	
1930	The Senior or Central School of the Sawston Village	28 Oct
20 Oct.	College opens: 245 children on the books, attending	29 Oct
	from Sawston, Shelford, Stapleford, Whittleford, Duxford,	30 Oct
	Hinxton, Ickleton, Pampisford and Babraham.	
Staff	Mr A.E. Filsell, M.A. (Oxon) Warden of the College.	
	Mr V.G. Hopkins (Certif.) Assistant. Music & Mathematics.	
	Mr A.W.T. Young, (Reading Univ.) Rural Science	
	Mr C.E. Ling, Woodwork etc.	
	Miss P.M. Clarke (B.A. London) Geography, English	
	Miss N.H. Stapley (B.A. London) History, Crafts, Art.	
	Miss F.E. Knappett (B.A. London) History, English.	
	Miss E.M. Neilson (B.Sc. Bristol) Crafts, Maths, Art	
	Miss A.R. Hay (Edinboro' Diploma Dom.Sc.) Domestic Science	31
Organisation	6 Classes of 40-42 children IIIA, IIIB, IIA, IIB, IA, IB.	
	working under form-teachers for Divinity, then going to subject-	
	rooms, two forms always dividing for practical work;	
	boys doing garden and rural science while girls do	
	Domestic science, boys doing Woodwork etc. while girls do	31
	Crafts (including Needlework).	
	Dinner provided in hall for 126 children	
	Miss Hassall giving whole time assistance in Dom.Sc. and dinner	
	organisation.	
	No. on books 245: Av. attendance 234.9 = 95.9%	

The first Warden - Mr Filsell

When Sawston Village College was 60 in 1990, some members of staff worked to produce a publication to mark the occasion. At that time, Mr Filsell, Sawston Village College's first Warden, was then in his eighties, and they were able to interview him, together with his wife Jean.

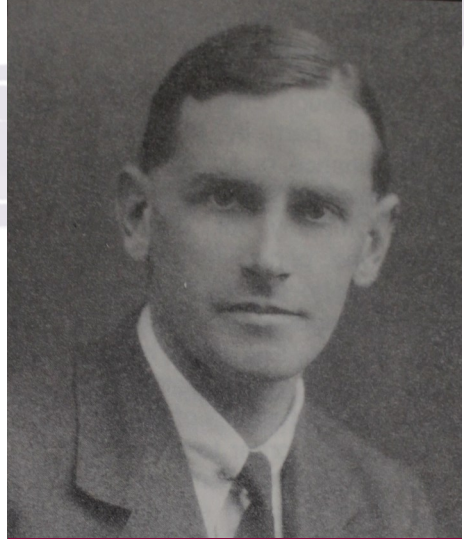
Mr Filsell was a tremendous organiser, and Jean remembered him standing on the kitchen roof of the school on the first day giving clear instructions to staff and children he had never met before.

Although Henry Morris could sometimes be a difficult man to work with, Mr Filsell respected him as a man of extraordinary vision and intellect.

Henry Morris, meanwhile, regarded Sawston Village College as a parent might view a favoured child, and he would show visitors around without telling anyone that he was coming out to Sawston from Cambridge. One day Mrs Filsell shook her dusty rag out of the window on to a group of unsuspecting Americans who were being led on a tour by Henry Morris.

Both Mr and Mrs Filsell remembered the opening of the school in October 1930, with the Prince of Wales officiating.

Mr Filsell remembered that the Prince of Wales was very conscious of a tiny hole in his stocking and tried to conceal this, while Mrs Filsell remembered him asking about all the people who had done the building work. The Prince of Wales was also apparently very solicitous when a stand collapsed outside the school causing minor injuries to spectators.



Mr A Filsell, first Warden (1930-1933)

Did you know?

Sawston Village College got off to a good start. In November 1930, a few weeks after the school had opened, Henry Morris wrote about Sawston Village College in a letter to Leonard Elmhirst, a philanthropist. In his letter, he says:

'The Senior School at the College is going well. All the children of the nine villages turn up daily without a hitch. The children cheer as they board their omnibuses in the early morning. Those who are unwell refuse to stay away, or cry if they are compelled to do so. For the children of the nine villages, school has become an adventure. Every day you can see 150 children taking a midday meal of two courses for 2½d ...'

'The first Village College was opened by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, at Sawston, Cambridgeshire. He was accompanied by the usual retinue of royal followers, representatives of government and the local 'Establishment' - the Lord Lieutenant, the village squire, the clergy of the local churches, Parish, District and County Councillors, the head teachers of the village schools. The massed band of the Sawston Boys' Brigade led the parade... ..It was the most impressive day in the village's history, with fulsome reporting in the national press.'

Bryan Howe,
Sawston Village College - A Short History

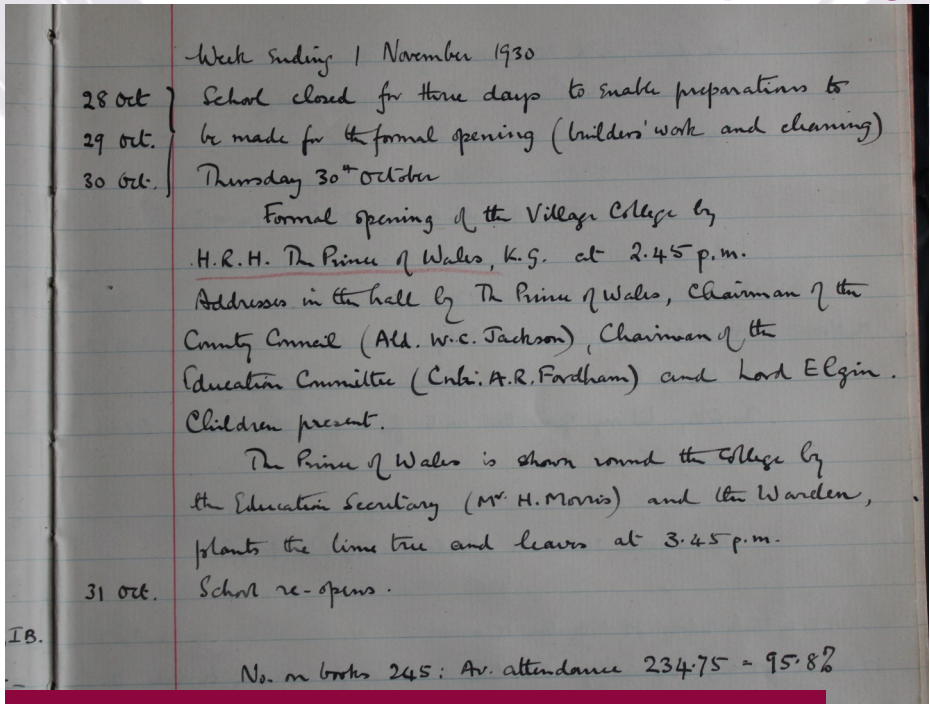


At the Opening (left to right): Henry Morris, the Prince of Wales and Warden Mr Filsell



At the Opening, the Prince of Wales planted a tree commemorating the occasion. Today, you can find a plaque next to this tree outside the Edinburgh Wing, opposite Fountain Court.

30 October 1930 - The Opening



See above for Mr Filsell's log book entry on the day the school was officially opened by HRH the Prince of Wales.

'Sawston was the first county school of its size to have a separate hall, the first to have an adult wing, specially built and furnished suitably and attractively for adults, the first to have a library for shared use by the school and by the community. The first where the Youth Employment Office was housed in the school, and a mechanics workshop was provided, specially biased towards agricultural engineering (the latter paid for by Mr and Mrs Elmhirst). There were playing fields for use by both village and school, a medical services room and a Warden's house. Many of these features are commonplace today. In 1930 they were revolutionary. They would never have been included without

the generosity of individual or collective donors; a generosity evoked only by the repeated and grinding exertions of Henry Morris: "I have given my blood for Sawston – not my sweat, my blood." That was how in later years he recalled the fight. But at the time there was no sign of loss of blood. After the second war, a newcomer to the office staff remarked that Mr Morris was a fine looking man, and an old hand had replied: "You should have seen him in the old days. You should have seen him at the opening of Sawston."

Harry Rée, 'Educator Extraordinary, The Life and Achievement of Henry Morris', Longman, 1973.



Did you know?

Recognise this space? What we know today as the Henry Morris Hall was also the dining hall when the school first opened, and, note, below, that teachers joined pupils at their tables.



Did you know?

When Sawston Village College introduced its House system and the houses Earhart, Da Vinci, Mandela and Turing, this was not the first time the school had had a House system.



Earhart



Da Vinci



Mandela



Turing

The early House system had houses called **Oak, Sycamore, Larch** and **Chestnut**. Just like today, each pupil and member of staff belonged to one of these houses and felt both a strong allegiance to their house and collective pride in belonging to it.

Did you know?



In the early days of Sawston Village College pupils were

involved in growing fruit and vegetables on the school site and also in keeping pigs. Most of the garden produce was sent to the school canteen, and any leftovers from lunch were sent back again to feed the pigs.



A special place - reflections from former Principal Mr Culpin

I have so many happy memories from my tenure as Principal of Sawston Village College and, before that, of being first Assistant and then Deputy Principal. There are the obvious highlights - the Carol Concert at Great St. Mary's, which always marked the official beginning of Christmas; Leavers' Ball on a warm late June evening; Open Evening, with the College illuminated by an array of different colours and the laughter and enthusiasm of the pupils proudly and eagerly showing off their school to prospective new parents and their children. I also look back fondly on events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, focusing on genocides throughout history and about which pupils produced stunning, reflective and powerful pieces of work; on trips to the Battlefields of France and Belgium, to Berlin and to Morocco, where pupils and staff experienced the most amazing sights and sounds, creating memories to last a lifetime.

Of course, I was also Principal when part of the Morris Wing was destroyed by fire. This was one of the most distressing events of my life, to see the College ablaze, but I was struck by how the whole community came together - pupils, parents, staff and the wider village - in the days and weeks that followed, so that we could rebuild the



Mr J Culpin, Principal 2010 - 2018,
now CEO of Anglian Learning

school and restore the beauty of Morris's Fountain Court.

But it is the routine of the school day that will ultimately stay with me. Meeting adult learners and sports centre users, listening to the Friday Singers, leading the wonderful staff it was my privilege to work with and, most importantly, spending time teaching and supporting such talented, enthusiastic and engaged young people, who never ceased to make me smile. All of this is what makes Sawston Village College so special, and it is an honour to have been Principal.



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Did you know?

Sawston Village College is part of Anglian Learning, a multi-academy trust comprising 13 academies. Anglian Learning was established in 2016, and Sawston Village College was one of its founding members. You can find out more about Anglian Learning here: www.anglianlearning.org.

Did you know?

Our school crest - a very important part of our identity - was not part of the school when it opened in 1930, but was introduced in 1949 by Mr van der Straeten. He and the Warden at that time, Mr Ross, were preparing a pageant called 'The Festival of Awards', and when it was clear the College lacked an emblem for a banner for the event, Mr van der Straeten proposed the use of the pelican motif.

Today, we have various different formats of our crest in use. However, all show a pelican. The chicks shown in front of the larger bird are the pelican's young, and the droplets shown on the chest of the larger bird are blood.

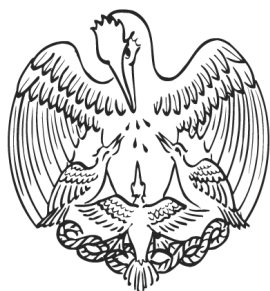
The pelican has pecked at its own breast in order to nourish its chicks with its own blood.

The pelican has ancient mythological significance.

However, our crest might be interpreted thus:

- the adult pelican bird = the school
- the pelican's young = the pupils.

In this way, our Sawston crest can be seen to symbolise the desire of the College to nourish its pupils - in body, mind and spirit.



The Sawston crest depicts a pelican with its young.



In 1979 pupils wore blazers as part of their uniform. If you look carefully at the photograph (left), you should spot the pelican crest on the blazer pocket.



Did you know?

Recognise the man in the photographs?

This is Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. He visited Sawston Village College in 1979 to officially open the Edinburgh Wing, our school building which takes his name.

Sawston Village College is expanding!

A vibrant place - reflections from former Principal Mrs Cannie

I first saw Sawston Village College when I visited to deliver my application for the post of Principal in October 2001. I was captivated by the mellow loveliness of Fountain Court, which reflected Henry Morris's 'sharp eye for beauty and his hatred of the second rate' and had inspired generations of children.

When we celebrated the College's 75th anniversary, The Times Educational Supplement took an interest; a reporter and a photographer joined us for a day and a morning. At the end of the visit, it was lunchtime and a group of lively girls was enjoying the shade of the cloisters. An elderly gentleman made his laborious way along the path. As he drew level with the group, he shouted loudly towards the girls, who immediately raced out of the cloisters and surrounded him. The reporter was clearly concerned, but as she discovered when we approached the group, it was an encapsulation of all that is wonderful about village college life: the old chap was the grandfather of one of the girls. He was on his way to his U3A Music Appreciation class. We left them laughing and joking



Mrs J Cannie, Principal 2002 - 2010

with one another.

What a vibrant place it was to work: young people whose robust good humour was a daily source of delight; pupils who did their best, those who excelled in the classroom, in the arts and on the sports field; adults who participated in community education and sport during the day and in the evening; Sawston Cinema, which brought young and older together in the making and screening of films; The Friday Singers, Sawston Youth Drama (SYD), Opportunities Without Limits (OWL), all combining to create a true microcosm of the village community.

In his Memorandum of 1924, Morris stated that the village college would be 'a visible demonstration in stone of the continuity and never ceasingness of education'. 90 years on, Sawston Village College is its founder's vision made real.



On Mrs Cannie's last day in school all the pupils gathered on Fountain Court to say goodbye.

Did you know?

There used to be an event in school called 'The Rose Queen Ceremony'. This took place annually, was organised around a theme involving a performance and saw the school opening its doors to the village with various displays also taking place in classrooms. The ceremony took place from 1932 to 1964 and was revived once in 2005 for the school's 75th anniversary.

Past Rose Queens are listed below:

1932	Joyce Marshall	1943	Pearl Searle
1933	Sybil Harradine	1944	Judy Driver
1934	Ursula Clements	1945	Doreen Darlow
1935	Margery Haylock	1946	Pamela Wright
1936	Connie Robinson	1947	Beryl Flitton
1937	Kathleen Carver	1948	Shirley Smith
1938	Joan Knights	1949	Pauline Matthews
1939	Joan Bradford	1950	Beatrice Turner
1940	Ruby Searle	1951	Elizabeth Roslyn
1941	Nina Cromack	1952	Maureen Northrop
1942	Valerie Spicer	1953	Norma Cartwright
		1954	Janet McKnight
		1955	Jane Rayment
		1956	Elizabeth Edwards
		1957	Cheryl Menfham
		1958	Angela Pettit
		1959	Gloria Saich
		1960	Margaret Robinson
		1961	Linda Clark
		1962	Judy Carter
		1963	Teresa Lepora
		1964	Rosemary Page
		2005	Katriona Davidson



Rose Queen Ceremonies at Sawston Village College

A unique place - reflections from former Principal Mr McMullen

I became Principal of Sawston Village College in 1994, taking over from John Marven who had been 'Warden' for over 25 years. Like my predecessors I lived, with my family, in the Warden's House situated at the front of the College site. This model of on-site stewardship was central to Henry Morris' thinking when he planned the village colleges. It was in keeping with his idea of life-long learning whereby adult learners shared the site with pupils. Our two youngest daughters joined the college as pupils and thought it a wonderful adventure to live on site. They could fall out of bed at 8.30 am and still be in time for registration! One of them summed up their delight with a memorable comment, '.....why didn't you come here years ago; the teachers are great and the children are so friendly.'

The quality of teaching and the achievement levels of the pupils were both of a very high standard, but sadly the site itself was in a poor state. The Local Education Authority had simply moved more and more temporary classrooms on to the site in response to rapidly increasing pupil numbers. One third of the College's



Mr K McMullen, Principal 1994 - 2001

classrooms were dilapidated 'mobiles' with most of them located on the Sports Centre car park. With an enormous fundraising effort we managed to build the Spicer Wing - the name itself tells you where a chunk of the funding came from. Funds ran out before the new block could be decorated and so, in true community style, an army of parent volunteers completed the decorating over two weekends.

The community dimension is the unique feature of the village colleges. At Sawston it has spawned so many inspiring initiatives some of which, such as Sawston Youth Drama (SYD) and Opportunities Without Limits (OWL) developed into charities serving the local community.

My wife and I still live in Sawston. It is a warm and generous community. On my regular visits to the Sports Centre to try and keep fit, I look fondly around the College site that holds so many cherished memories.



Former principals in 2014 (left to right): Mr Culpin, Mr McMullen, Mrs Cannie and Mr Marven. Mr Marven died in 2018 aged 85 years.

Did you know?

Sawston Village College staged a celebration event for its 75th anniversary in 2005. Former Principal Mrs Cannie reflects on this memorable day below.



Left to right: Mrs Cannie, 2005 Rose Queen Katriona Davidson and former pupil and 1943 Rose Queen Pearl Mann

The College's 75th anniversary was approaching. How should we celebrate the occasion? We agreed that the whole community should be involved and our pupils should play a key role. We set the date for a gala day: 24 September 2005. From the College's early days, there had been a tradition of holding an annual celebration of the arts. The centrepiece of the celebrations would be the crowning of The Rose Queen, a girl chosen for her goodness, her kindness. We decided that this would make an excellent starting point for our planning. Year 8 forms were asked to elect a girl and a boy who met the criteria. We then held a draw to elect The Rose Queen and her attendant; Katriona Davidson and Joe Johnson. We contacted all of the local organisations that served the community and invited them to join the fun. Each organisation would parade together through the village, ending up on Fountain Court where there would be a programme of music for the assembled crowds. The parade grew in number, until on the day itself, brownies, cubs, beavers, scouts, guides and a host of others followed behind the cadets' sergeant to the accompaniment of the

boys' brigade band.

Our Rose Queen and her attendant arrived in a carriage drawn by two beautiful horses, an extravagance made possible by the generosity of one of our governors. The remaining attendants paraded behind. Joe handed Katriona down from the carriage with immaculate courtesy to the applause of the assembled crowd. Katriona took her place on the throne and her attendants gathered around; a beautiful cameo. The College's junior choir sang their hearts out on Fountain Court; the wind band dazzled with their exuberant renderings and then the centrepiece of the day: the crowning of The Rose Queen by The Rose Queen of 1943, Pearl Mann, who performed her duty with elegance and charm.

The remainder of the day passed in a maelstrom of activity: The Henry Morris Hall was the focus for community groups to entertain the public: Mrs Jacobs' dance group, The Friday Singers, Sawston Youth Drama. Mr Higgins held sway in the drama studio introducing pupil performances, while Mrs Macleod showcased her pupils' musical talents.

Year 8 girls created The Rose Café - they made the decorations, their own uniforms, the scones, the cakes and did a brisk trade all afternoon. The Sports Centre offered free swimming, five-a-side football, and free health checks. Local artists exhibited their work in The Walnut Gallery.

And in the evening, a black-tie ball with the wonderful Joe Loss Orchestra, the Henry Morris Hall full to capacity. As midnight approached, all present linked arms and danced to a fabulous rendering of 'New York, New York' to end a memorable day. We were footsore and weary but exhilarated that our wonderful school's anniversary had been well and truly celebrated.

Memories of school - former pupil Pearl Mann reflects

Former pupil Pearl Mann was born a week after the opening of Sawston Village College but likes to say she was actually at the official opening as her mother, keen to attend, was there. Pearl has always been a great supporter of the school and its activities, and she reflects below on some of her memories of school.

I went to Sawston Village College in September 1941. It felt very strange and big after Junior School. I soon settled in and enjoyed making new friends from other villages.

Every Monday morning we had assembly in the Main Hall, and Mr Milner would stride in, complete with mortar board and gown. Often Miss Chapman would catch me (if I didn't see her first!) and say, 'Oh, Pearl, will you read the lesson today,' and hand me a book with a bookmark in it. Obviously, I hadn't had a chance to read it through beforehand - I was so nervous.

I quite enjoyed doing PE, especially using the 'horse' and the 'box'.

In Year Two we all voted for the Rose Queen and, much to my amazement, I was chosen. (My older sister was also a Rose



Pearl Mann (née Searle)
crowning the 2005 Rose Queen


Queen three years earlier.) It was a lovely ceremony, and lots of people came to watch. When the 'Queens' and their attendants were seated, there were displays of Maypole dancing, folk dancing and PE. Also, that day, some classrooms were open with displays of needlework, woodwork and metalwork completed by the students, and these were very popular.

Sadly, Dr Highmore put a stop to all this, but June Cannie, then Principal, brought it back just once to celebrate 75 years since the opening of the College, and I had the honour of crowning the Queen.

I enjoyed my years at Sawston Village College. I was a Prefect and also House Captain of Larch (one of the houses). I was no good at sport, but quite good at organising others!



Rose Queens (left to right): 1933 Sybil Harradine, 1945 Doreen Darlow, 1946 Pamela Wright, 1943 Pearl Searle, 1944 Judy Driver (Photograph: Jack Barnes)



We hope that you will keep this booklet as a memento of your secondary school days in this first and very special village college. What does the College mean to you? What have you particularly enjoyed in your school days to this point? Use this page to record your thoughts, imagining that you might come across this entry again when you find this booklet among your possessions in years to come, and look back fondly on your school days.

Architecture

Did you know?

The design of the school buildings was very important to Henry Morris; he saw the school building itself as a 'silent teacher', meaning that its design should both inspire and facilitate learning. In his Memorandum, Henry Morris makes several references to the importance of the architecture of school buildings, some of which are given on this page.

'The building that will form the village college will be so new in English architecture, and its significance so great, that the design and construction of the first village colleges should be very carefully provided for. For we are in measurable sight, if we use imagination and have administrative courage, of giving to the English countryside a number of fine and worthy public buildings. The schools of rural England are nearly always bad and seldom beautiful - never a form of art, as they might and ought to be.'

Henry Morris, Memorandum, 1924



Sawston Village College - under construction

'The difference between good and bad architecture is more often the difference between a good design and a bad design, rather than the difference between cheap and costly material. Assuming that good material will be available for a village college, the important thing is to see that it has a significant design. Such a design must be simple, but it could be beautiful. Using our imagination, let us say to the architect: 'Education is one of our greatest public services... ..Education touches every citizen. We have a conception of a new institution for the countryside, an institution that will touch every side of the life of the inhabitants of the district in which it is placed. Will you think out a design for such a building, a village college? A building that will express the spirit of the English countryside which it is intended to

grace, something of its humaneness and modesty, something of the age-long and permanent dignity of husbandry; a building that will give the countryside a centre of reference arousing the affection and loyalty of the country child and country people, and conferring significance on their way of life?'

Henry Morris, Memorandum, 1924

'The village college would provide an opportunity for creative architecture. Our State system of education has not yet produced noble architecture on the same scale as that of all the other great movements of the national spirit. And there has been no public architecture in the English countryside since the Parish Churches were built - that is, since the Middle Ages.'

Henry Morris, Memorandum, 1924



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Sawston
Village College

Sawston Village College Principal, **Jonathan Russell**, would like to thank the following people for their support in compiling this 90th Anniversary booklet.

June Cannie, Former Principal

Jonathan Culpin, Former Principal

Liz Dockerill, Sawston Village History Society

Peter Hains, Chair, Henry Morris Memorial Trust

Pearl Mann, Former Pupil and Rose Queen

Kevin McMullen, Former Principal

Editor: **Lesley Morgan**, Arts Development Manager