

300 years of Education in Birchington

The earliest record of education in Birchington is the Crispe Charity School started in 1708 for 12 boys and girls. It was begun through the generosity of Anna Gertruy Crispe of Quex Park. She left a farm to Trustees, with instructions in her will to use the farm rent to pay the Master or Mistress, and to help 5 widows and pay for the cleaning of the Quex Chapel. Since the school was closed in 1863, the children's money has been used to help school leavers and local youth groups.



In 1849 the National Church School in Park Lane was opened for children aged 7 to 12. As the population has risen over the years, extra buildings have been added. In 1938 it was decided to educate the 11-14 year olds separately and so King Ethelbert School was built half way between Westgate and Birchington, to serve both

communities.

During this time, private education had been added to the agenda. The first large one was Woodford House Boys' School in 1892, when two brothers moved to Birchington from Woodford in Essex. This was the only school that remained open in the village throughout WW 2.



In 1910 Grenham House Boys' School was built in Grenham Road and lasted until 1984. David Suchet, of Poirot fame, came here.

The last private large school to open was Queen Bertha's Girls' School in 1929. This one only lasted for 30 years, but its past students still meet each year and celebrated their 80th anniversary with a service in All Saints Church in 2009. There were also many small private schools in Birchington.