

Hello Heritage...

The National School High Street Ibstock

<https://ibstocklives.wixsite.com>



The photo shows the former National school on the corner of High Street and Grange Road in Ibstock. Now the Old School Tea Rooms. Deeds tell us that it was built on land 'anciently' known as the Highway Close. The route of the Highway remains today as the footpath up through the jitty to Heather and down through Grange Road towards Bagworth. This Highway may well have pre-dated the village. The land was purchased in 1818 for a new weekday and Sunday School, to be affiliated to the National Society for Promoting the education of the poor in the Principles of the Established Church. By 1833, the National school was teaching 80 boys and 50 girls. There were 70 weekday pupils in 1846. In 1914 it was described by a school inspector as 'one of the worst places for a fairly large school that he had seen for years.' Four classes were taught in one room, separated only by low screens; heating, lighting and ventilation were poor; the lavatories were just seats over a channel flushed by a pump and the yards were too small for physical exercise. The school closed in 1918 but reopened in 1939-40 for teaching evacuees.

Ibstock Community Enterprises was set up in 1996 by a group of local business owners and others keen to make Ibstock a better place. With the assistance of grants the former National school was renovated and reopened as units for office and retail businesses. It is now known as 57 High Street.



National School Staff

Back Row 2= Mary Jane Harratt, 4= Mrs Thirlby

Front Row 2= Mr Thomas Wright (1862-1940) School Master and 3= his wife Mrs Mary Wright nee Thirlby (1870-1960)



A class at the National School with teacher Mrs Mary Wright nee Thirlby (1870-1960)



A Parade going past the National School in the 1940's

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