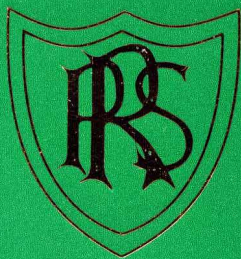


*The School at the End
of the Lane*



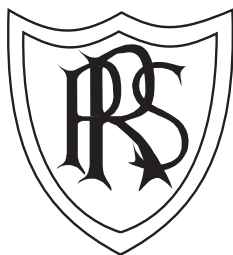
*This book is dedicated to Miss Inez Routledge
in honour of her sixty years at Reedham Park School.*

'A truly remarkable achievement by a lovely lady'

*'Train up a child in the way he should go and
when he is old he will not depart from it'*

Proverbs 22.6

*The School at the End
of the Lane*



Reedham Park School, Purley
Diamond Jubilee
1992

Introduction

I remember the day I fell under the spell of Reedham Park School. It was October 5th 1953 and my parents, brother Dan and myself had that day moved into our new home in 71 Old Lodge Lane. Just turned five years old, I was exploring the vast new garden when I heard the distant sound of singing from the direction of a building just visible through the trees. The afternoon singing lesson sounded to my puzzled ears like a heavenly choir.

My first memory of Miss Routledge herself is of being told off for writing my name in chalk on the steps going up to Lady Bowyer's. Not only had I to clean up the step, I had also mis-spelled my name Tohmas. Not bad—discipline, spelling and cleanliness in one short sharp lesson.

For me, and for hundreds of others, the school has held a special charm that has not diminished with the years. That is entirely due to one of the most indomitable, eccentric and warm-hearted individuals you could hope to meet, who has fashioned a place unlike any other and has enriched the lives of all who have passed through it.

I hope you will enjoy this distillation of all that is good about Reedham Park, and that it will rekindle memories of your own about one very remarkable lady and the School at the End of the Lane.

Tom Boyle

Acknowledgements

Many people have given a great deal of help in preparing this book, and without their assistance it would never have seen the light of day.

In particular I am grateful to my wife Patti, who initiated the project and provided invaluable assistance of all descriptions throughout its course; to Miss Routledge for embracing the idea with enthusiasm and for her constant willingness to help with the research; to the Chairman of the Parents Association Nigel Thorpe and his wife Anthea, Treasurer Barbara Bird and Treasurer-elect John Simpson and his family for encouragement and practical help with the administration; to Alison Hudson for reading the proofs; to the many individuals and organisations who provided the right help at the right time, in particular Paul and Christine Tonks, Trevor and Maureen Locke, Hugh Roberts; Roger and Jan Lane, Mrs Shortt, Mick Simpson, Lin Perry, Mrs Dunmore, Mrs Ordoyno, Mrs Gonsalves, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs King, Mrs Martin, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Smith, Mrs Tann, Mr Valenti, Mrs Woodley, Hilary Rogers, Susan Higham, Marilyn Sturgeon; Glyn Saddington; Diana Jones; Peter Adkins of Thurstons Printers; Malcolm Drury of MD Publications; Croydon Public Libraries; British Gas for use of their computer facilities; and last but not least to everyone who contributed and subscribed to this book and ultimately made it possible.

Tom Boyle, 17th November 1992.

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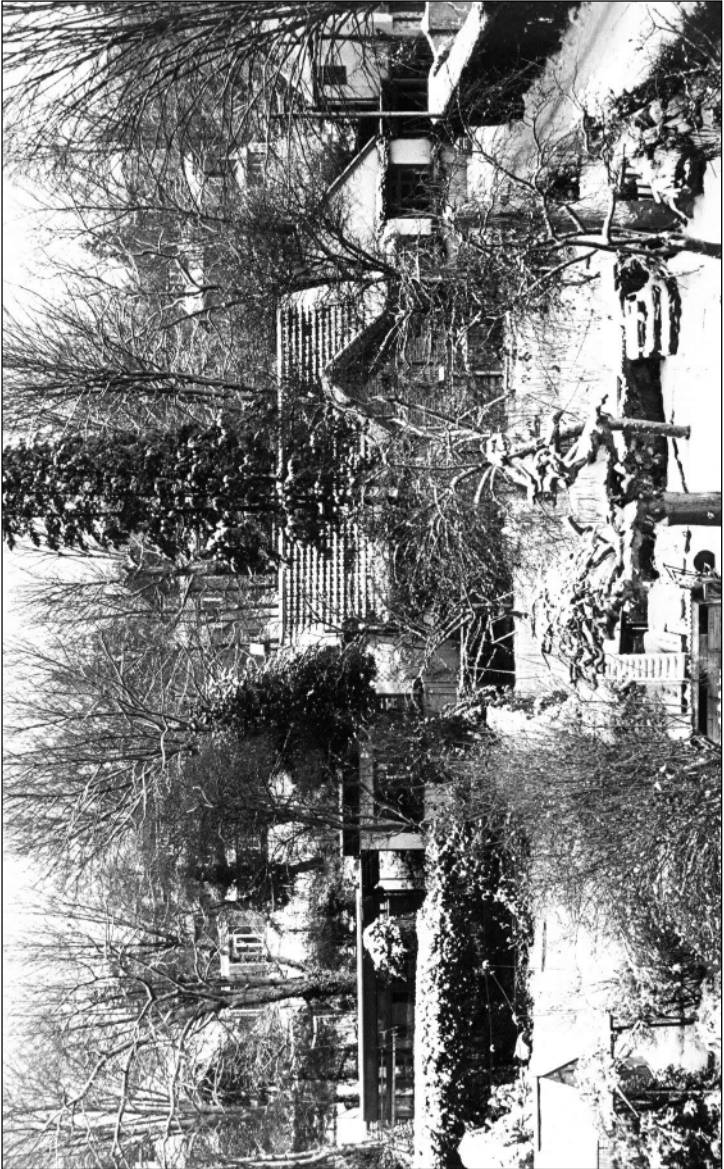
The School at the End of the Lane





The School at the End of the Lane





On previous pages:

Page 8: The whole school on a showery day in July 1992 (except afternoon teachers and Mrs Dunmore who had broken her arm)

Page 9: The 1992/93 Kindergarten.

Back row, from the left—Sacha Kearns, James Ireland, Jennifer Burt, Russell Sturgeon, Tessa Van Der Vord, Rodney Davies, Leanne Kane.

Middle row, from left—Lucy Ann Martin, Damon Marchini, Lauren Osman, Adrian de Souza, Josephine MacDonald, Michael Bird, Jenna Beatty, Akash Rughani, Abbey Martin, Ben Leonard.

Front row, from left—David Hudson, Lucy Gallagher, Giovanni Damiani, Louis Blair, Ruveen Phull, Alexander Demetri, Joseph Eastwood, Louise MacDonald, Daniel Brady.

Pages 10 and 11: Summer and winter. Mick Simpson's picture taken in July 1989, and the view from 71 Old Lodge Lane about ten years earlier.

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