



# Old School House

**The earliest features seen in the Old School House, formerly Church House are 17th Century. Built of cob walls it would originally have a thatched roof.**

## COMMUNITY USE

In 1727 it consisted of three rooms on the ground floor with a chamber over. It was rented by the Church from the Earl of Portsmouth, local landowner, and was used for a meeting and drinking place.

## FIRST NATIONAL SCHOOL

By 1857 a National School has appeared in East Worlington, supported by the Earl of Portsmouth, with R. Sleep as master. From the time of its establishment the school was housed in the upper room of the Church House with paupers below. The school continued to use the first floor until 1868, when a new National School (the present larger classroom ) was built. By 1871, the Church House was now called School House, lived in by the schoolmaster, John Francis Lemon. The National School closed in about 1873.



## POOR HOUSE

The Grade II Listing confirms that much renovation work was undertaken in early C19th. Other records suggest this work cost £60. During the early part of the C19th it was used as a poor house. This was confirmed in the 1851 census when it appears as Church House and was occupied by paupers.

## SCHOOL MASTER AND FAMILY 1914

The Master between 1899 and 1924 was William Henry Edmonds. He left to take a farm in 1924. In 1902.3 his salary was £85 with house, rates and taxes. He lived in the school house with his family. Little Dorothy was one of his children.



## DOROTHY

Dorothy sat at the door of the old school house. She is listening to the gramophone. Sadly Dorothy died aged 5



## EDUCATION ACT 1870 AND SCHOOL BOARDS

The Education Act 1870 created a requirement to establish School Boards to ensure the provision of elementary education for children aged 5–13.

In 1874 the first meeting of the new East Worlington School Board was held.

On November 2nd 1874 a deed of Gift of the new School and School House from the Earl of Portsmouth was presented to the Board. The Board School itself was opened on 5th April 1875, with John Dainty as master. At this time the School and School House were insured for the sum of £400.