



## **History of Chafyn Grove School (1879)**

One of several schools in the Milford area, Chafyn Grove School started out as Salisbury School for boys and was in the care of Mr. W. C. Bird in 1879.

It acquired its current name because of a Miss Julia Chafyn Grove of Zeal House, near Mere. Not only did Mere benefit from her benevolence, but Salisbury did too. She had already endowed a ward at Salisbury Hospital and an organ at Salisbury Cathedral. So when she died in 1897 she left £500 to help education in Salisbury and in particular to provide a school which would take the place of the Elizabethan Grammar School Endowment, which Salisbury formerly had. It was decided to use this money to buy Mr. Alcock's school, which was then converted into a Charitable Trust and the buildings greatly enlarged. The following year, 1898, the new wing was officially opened by Bishop Wordsworth.

1916, the Governors invited Mr. H. L. Whytehead to become Headmaster. He transformed the school into a Preparatory School and renamed it Chafyn Grove to commemorate its first benefactress.

1918 saw the premises being used by the RAF Southern Area Headquarters and the boys were transferred to a school in Sussex.

After the war it was opened up again as a school and by 1950 the pupil numbers were 100. The school became co-educational in 1980. 300 pupils now attend the 12 acre school.

Famous ex-pupils include Richard Dawkins and Tom and James Holland (both authors of history books)