

Child Action Northwest - Our History 1855 - Present



The founder of our modern organisation James Dixon was born on the 11th December 1855

1855

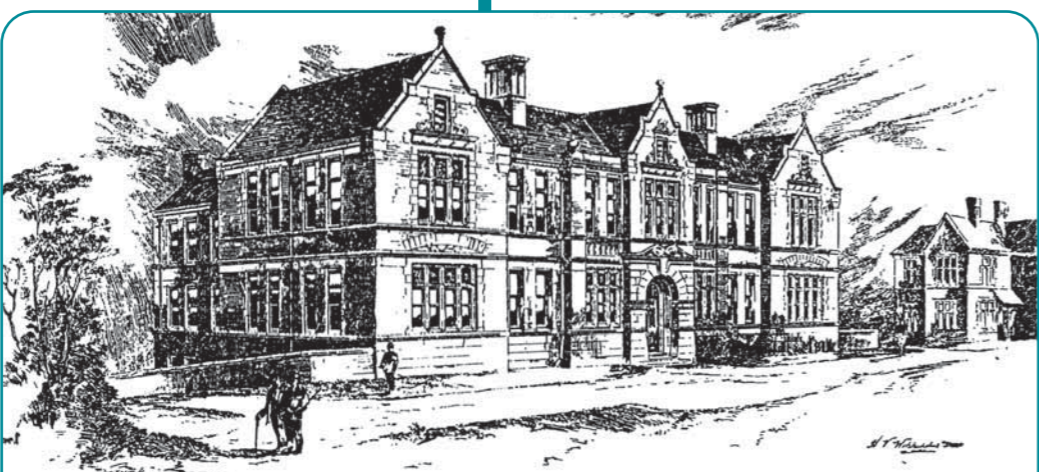
James Dixon commenced with a fund on the 14th December 1886 to open a Blackburn & District Orphanage and opened an account with his life savings. The date became known as Founder's Day and is celebrated annually.

1886



Adolphus Curran, the first lad to be admitted to the Orphanage in 1891.

1891



BLACKBURN ORPHANAGE and Homes for Destitute Boys and Girls.
 ESTIMATED COST, £3,700. AMOUNT SUBSCRIBED, £1,381 3s. 6d.
 The Committee appeal for further subscriptions. If the Building be Opened Free of Debt Mr. John Fish, J.P., of Southport, has promised to pay one-tenth of its cost. Donations may be sent to any Member of the Committee, or address to Mr. Dixon, "the Home," Blackburn.

In spring of 1889, nine separate sites for the proposed Orphanage were considered, and one particular plot of some four or five acres at Wilpshire were considered the best. It adjoined the Blackburn to Clitheroe highway, was within a mile of Wilpshire railway station, and cost only £80 per acre. A large sign was erected on the site which read **"ORPHANAGE SITE £3,000 WANTED"**. In 1891 the new Orphanage was ready and duly opened.

1895



An air of excitement captured at the ceremony to mark the extending of the building in August 1895.

1895

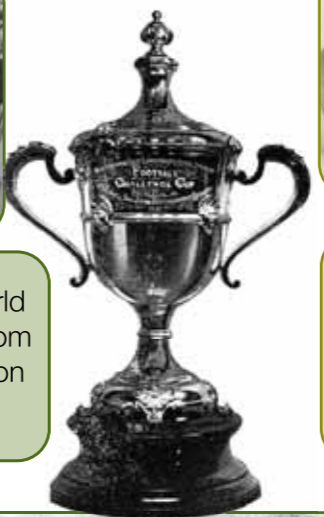


Master Leonard Crosswell King-Wilkinson laid the foundation stone for the Girls' building on 20th August 1904. His family had been generous and indefatigable workers for the Orphanage. Another stone was laid by James Dixon. The two stones, bearing the initials of the person laying them, are to be seen at the entrance of The Homestead at Wilpshire today.

1914



The start of the First World War. Many young men from the Orphanage saw action in the trenches.



In 1932 the first winners of the amateur football competition, which was later known as the Orphanage Cup and still runs to this very day.

1932

The Second World War began, seven of the 'old boys' made the supreme sacrifice, including Frank Raynor who was serving on H.M.S. Hood when it was sunk by the Bismark on 24th May 1941



1932



James Dixon died on the 7th May 1936 aged 81

1936

Change of name from Blackburn & District Children's Home to Blackburn Childcare Society 12th August 1996

1996

Change of name to Child Action Northwest in 2004 to reflect a wider geographic commitment to the Northwest

2004