

School Memories Heather Eves (nee Lever) 1957-1963

MY YEARS AT SHIRLEY INFANT SCHOOL AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

I joined Shirley Infant School in 1957 and remember Mrs Rushby as one of my first teachers. Looking back, a very kind, friendly lady who helped us to settle in with our first big step, starting School.

In those days, the first day was straight into the classroom for the day, saying "Goodbye" to Mum at 9am at the classroom door, tears were shed by a few. Unlike today where children have a gentler introduction with half day sessions to begin with. I think Miss Toms was Headmistress although my memory may be letting me down and I wonder if Miss Ferrent was Head of both the Infant and Junior Schools.

I moved up to the Junior School, remembering Miss Ferrent and Mrs Sydel as her Deputy. I also remember Mrs O'Driscoll, Miss Dominy, Mrs Hathaway and Miss Hill. I remember Miss Hill took us to Summer School at Stubbington – brave lady. Of course some of us were homesick but there was plenty to do and that soon took our minds off home. Parents were allowed to visit us at Stubbington on the day before we returned home.

I was quite an active member of the Junior School, a member of the Rounders Team, Netball Team, Recorder Group and Choir (I don't remember how successful we were in the sports teams!) I also remember going to the Brighton Pavilion to represent the School in the choir and we all had special dresses made for the occasion. I enclose a photo of the choir and the sports teams in which I was a member.

I thoroughly enjoyed my days at Shirley before going "up the road" to Southampton Grammar School for Girls and seem to remember Shirley

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supplied Girls Grammar with its largest intake of pupils. We recently had a Reunion at GG to mark a milestone birthday and most of the Shirley girls attended despite most now having moved away from Southampton.

I remember playing rounders at the Recreation Ground in Church Street and also playing Dibs and Jacks in the playground at "play" time as well as hopscotch and skipping games! No electronic games for us in those days!

As mentioned I went to the school in 1957 but my older sister, Joan Lever, attended the School from 1944 and then her son Anthony Symons joined in 1970 and her daughter Teresa Symons in 1972. Teresa's two children James Willis and Olivia Willis are past and present pupils of the School (James was at the School from 2002 and Olivia is there at the moment).

I hope these photographs assist with your Centenary and wish you every success with the celebrations.

Best Wishes

Heather Eves (Nee Lever)

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Shirley Infant School Late 50s



Junior Class Photo 1963



Junior Rounders Team c. 60s

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Junior School Shirley Netball Team c. 1963



Junior School Summer School – Stubbington 1963

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Junior School Choir representing school at Brighton Pavilion



Junior School Choir c. early 60s

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Junior Choir and Recorder Group c. early 60s



Junior School Recorder Group early 60s