

School Memories Josephine Schuppe nee Josephine Volpe from 1975

I attended Shirley First and Shirley Middle School. I started school in September 1975.

The Headmaster – Mr Slater. Deputy Head – Mrs Smith

Shirley Middle School: Uniform comprised of dark green sweatshirt with a large printed Owl - covering most of the front of the sweatshirt. A grey skirt, and a white blouse.

I do hope that you enjoy reading the following extracts from my old English exercise book, as much as I have enjoyed rediscovering these books. They have evoked fond memories of my Childhood at Shirley First and Middle School. Extracts are exactly how I wrote them at the time!

Extract No. 1 taken from my old English exercise book class 4c, Shirley Middle School:

“A typical day in my life (27th June 1983)

Half past seven my mum comes in and wakes me up. By quarter to eight I am washed and dressed. I go downstairs to eat my breakfast, which has been prepared by my mum it is usually a bowl of cereal with a cup of tea, sometimes coffee.

By eight o'clock I have finished my breakfast and I let my rabbit out of his cage. Then I have to tidy my room. By 8.35 I go and call for Tara and we walk to school. When we get there we put our bags down and line up. At 8.55 the bell goes and we go inside to our classrooms.

On Mondays we have assembly which is often taken by Mr Slater or Mrs Smith or a class. Then we have English and we do different things. At 10.40 we have a break and go out into the school playground. Playtime finishes at 11 o'clock where we return to our classroom and do some topic work. 12 O'clock the school bell rings and people go for lunch at school or at home or for sandwiches. At 1.15 we go inside. In the afternoon we go to French. On Mondays we have games. At 3.30p.m school finishes. On Monday I go to guides. Thursdays Athletics Club.”

Extract No. 2 taken from my old English exercise book class 4c, Shirley Middle School:

“At 10.40 the loud school bell goes. Children rushing along the corridor out into the concrete playground. Everybody playing different games, people shouting, laughing and crying. Walking around you can see people arguing with each other, pulling

faces, bullying other children. Many of these people are small and fat, eyes are blue and their hair is short and straggly. The girls playing the bench game trying to get the person off the bench. Others playing "it". And many other games.

The boys playing football trying desperately to score a goal and win the game. Different groups trying to organize other games. The best sunny areas are the steps going in to the huts on the sides of the building."

These wooden huts provided extra space for the pupils. They no longer exist.

Extract No. 3 taken from my old English exercise book class 3c. (20th July 1982):

"The School

Shirley middle school is a tall old building it is not modern like most schools. The playground isn't all that big and doesn't have any grass it has concrete. The school has hop-scotch in the playground also a girls area and a boys area. Inside, the school the 1st and 2nd years are on the bottom floor, 3rd and 4th are on the top. The classrooms are not all that big. The average to each classroom is about 34 most of the blackboards are nailed onto the wall some blackboards are on wheels. We do not have desks we have tables with chairs. We also have a little room for French. We have a big library and a small hall where we have hymn practices and assembly."

Extract No. 4 taken from my old English exercise book class 4c:

"Assembly, (10 June 1983):

A musty dark room.

As children sit in silence

Listening patiently to the Headmaster of the school.

Later each class leaves the Hall."