

School Memories Mary Jarvis (nee Hook)

Infant School & Junior School leaving 1969

Congratulations on reaching your centenary. I found the details while on the Internet. I was at Shirley Infants and Junior School leaving in July 1969. I have my reports file and my teachers were Miss Clews, Miss Henderson, Mrs Smith and Miss Humby. The report for my last year, class S6, shows 38 girls per class and 75 in the year. Years 3 and 4 were taught as girls and boys no mixed classes. Until they third year Miss Ferrant was the head mistress, then Mr Wheeler, I think he was the boys head master before it became a mixed school. Miss Cousins was head of the infants.

From Google maps I can see there are additions to the building. In the 60's I seem to remember huts on the playground, arch shaped and made of corrugated material and outside toilets on the Wilton Road side of the school that froze in winter. There was a building down Bellemoor Road we used and a swimming pool was put up in summer at the far side of the playground.

The main entrance at the far right of the building was up wide stones stairs. My last class room was up the top first right, the cloakroom was opposite. Miss Humby was the teacher. I remember she said that one day she thought there would be phones where you could see each other as you talked and that she would hate that if she was seen with her curlers in! That was in the days when not every house had a landline and mobiles weren't thought of. Now with computers we can see people as we talk to them in most parts of the world.

I remember when the Queen visited Southampton, we went to the Common to see her. We also used to go to the church down the road, and there were prize giving ceremonies. I won 'A Bear Called Paddington' I still have it. The uniform was bottle green I still don't wear green! We learnt to knit and sew, skills I still enjoy today. There was a sweet shop just past the bus stop that sold penny bars of chocolate, not 1p, but 1d, as in pounds shillings and pence.

I hope you all enjoy the celebrations, I know as a Mum how hard teachers work. I now live with my husband and three boys in Buckinghamshire, perhaps you can put some pictures on your web page as I am unlikely to be able to join you in person.

Best wishes. MaryJarvis. nee Hook

(If Anne Jasper should contact you please give her my email we lost contact after Tech College and I would like to catch up again. Thank you)