

Woldgate School Alumni

Pocklington and District Local History Group - WOLDGATE SCHOOL HISTORY

We will be trying to fit the history of Woldgate into the context of the development of education nationally since 1945 and locally (the East Riding). We are hoping that the personal accounts and memories that you provide will illustrate these national and county developments on a very local scale.

Name Ann Hill

Maiden name (if applicable) Ann Barker

Date Sunday, August 2, 2020

Please answer the questions below about your past time at Woldgate School

Date or year you started at Woldgate September 1963

Date or year you left Woldgate July 1970

My role at Woldgate

Pupil

Please enter your highlights of your time at Woldgate

I lived in Pocklington and attended the old Infant School on New Street and the County Junior School. I have fond memories of my year at Woldgate County Secondary School, as it was then. I was a prefect in the 5th Form and the School Sports Captain in the Upper 6th Form.

In my 4th year we had informal careers discussions and I remember Mrs Anderson, an English teacher who knew my family well, advising me not to join the WRAF as she felt that my parents would be unhappy! I decided to become a teacher and, no regrets, as I have had a full filled and successful career in teaching.

I am still in touch with one friend from Woldgate. However, I see some socially, and had professional contact with many others as I still live in the Pocklington area and I taught at the local schools consequently, in that role, I met many ex Woldgate students who were then the parents of the pupils I was teaching.

My seven years at Woldgate County Secondary School provided me with opportunities and life experiences that were the building blocks for a happy and successful life. I particularly remember Mr Fletcher, who ran the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. I am indebted to him for giving his time and organising a variety of activities through which I learnt new skills. I believe the my D of E Gold Award enabled me to gain a place at one of the top teacher training colleges. At my interview I was asked many questions about my skills learnt on the scheme.

In 2018 when I attended the Woldgate 60 Year Celebration I was fortunate to meet Mr Fletcher and thank him personally for organising and running the D of E Award Scheme.

Mrs Skinner was another teacher who 'made a difference' to my life. Through her support and encouragement I particularly excelled on the sports field at athletics (discus and 880 yds) and playing hockey. I have continued to enjoy sporting activities throughout my life.

By the 5th form I joined several evening classes and spent a disproportionate amount of time at Woldgate, so much so that my parents once suggested I took a camp-bed and slept there!

Also in the Lower 6th Form I asked to join Mr Cowell's Woodwork class, I wanted to learn a new skill, and was allowed. I was the only girl in the class and learnt to make a mortise and tenon joint and to

turn a bowl on a lathe!

For me it was the 'whole school' experience and credit must go to all the staff responsible for providing that, thank you it was life changing.