

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 Gerald Hall

Date Wednesday, September 30, 2020

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

Date or year you started at Woldgate 1959

Date or year you left Woldgate 1965

My role at Woldgate

Pupil

Please enter your highlights of your time at Woldgate

We travelled from Seaton Ross to Woldgate in the grey Phillips buses which I believe had been used to carry German prisoners during the war! Many of us from the village had failed the 11+. My sister Eileen attended the school at the same time and others travelling in, included Fred Henley, Chris Hunt, Derek Lumley, Maureen Murr and her brothers. Some of these I still see when I am visiting the area.

At first I was in the C form with form tutor Miss Mellor. I remember her being particularly kind and encouraging. She came from Bridlington and she took us on a trip to Sewerby Hall. The memorable local school trips were to Fountains Abbey, Wressle Castle and to see the film of Macbeth at the ABC in York.

The Head of school was Mr Vaughan and I believe he was instrumental in the progress that many of us made within the school and on to later life. The structure of the school allowed pupils to progress through to take O levels and possibly into the sixth form. With many other Secondary Modern schools at that time, it was not possible to take O levels or to go into a sixth form.

Mr Vaughan taught O level English Literature and I remember how he seemed to make sense of the Shakespeare we studied. He was interested in music and I remember seeing the school production of the Mikado, although I was not involved.

In 1964, I went on the school trip to France, led by Miss Oates. We travelled by train through France down to Annecy and spent some time in Paris on our return. Surprisingly, Miss Oates took some of us to a cabaret club in Paris one evening, to hear a singer and have a glass of French wine. The whole experience was made a big impression at that time, with a first trip to London and abroad.

Art was my main interest and Mr Haselden taught me and encouraged me to progress with it.

It was in 1965, while in the lower sixth form, that I decided to leave Woldgate to go to York School of Art. I was at York for two years before going to the north east to study the Dip. AD. in Art and Design (B.A.) followed by a one year teacher training course at Leicester University.

So as a career I taught Art and Design for 35 years, both in Comprehensive Schools and then College of Further Education. I am now retired.

While at the 60th anniversary school reunion, it was really nice to meet up again with Malcolm Hara and Janet Towse who I had not seen for many years.

My memories of Woldgate are mainly happy ones where I felt I progressed well from a slow beginning. (The photographs I have included show the French trip, I think in Paris' in 1964. I am at extreme left of

the cannon next to Tony Kay, standing above. Possibly, Richard Simpson, caretakers son and musician may be in the photograph? The class with teacher Miss Mellor was taken in 1960. I am in the second row, third from the left. I believe the photo showing Miss Oates and Mr Gent as form tutors was taken in 1963/64 and shows the fifth form. Here I am sitting third from the left, front row)

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