

The Start of Roseberry School 1967 – My memories By Catherine Sedgwick (nee. Scott)

I moved to Great Ayton in 1966, from Nottingham. My dad was a teacher, firstly at Westbury street in Thornaby and then at Edward Kitching in Great Ayton, (became Burden's Engineering, but now Edward Kitching Mews.)

I was firstly at the British School, (which is now Ayton Library) then at Edward Kitching for a short time while the excitement mounted about the new Junior school being almost finished.

Roseberry Junior School was opened in September 1967, there were four set years with set year ages, not mixed years as they are now. I was 7 years old and went into 2nd year with the lovely Mrs Caton, then 3rd year with Miss Thom and 4th year with Mr Thompson, (who you may know is hubby to the very talented ballet teacher, Thelma Thompson.)

My older brother, Alistair, was taught by my dad, Mr Scott, but the following year a rule was brought out that children could not be taught by their parents.

The two extra class rooms that are now used as, 'Little Bears' and After School Club were used for classes as the school numbers grew, Mr Barlow had one and Mrs Smith, (or was it Mrs Whelch?) used the other.

The central area that is paved and used as a play area for Year 1, was our nature area. We had a rain collector and bird feeders and would do different weather tests and bird food tests, which were fun.

The top school was not built in my years at the school, although the little pool at the side, (Mrs Brown's new class now covers that area) was built a few months before I left in July 1971.

Initially our dinners were brought in metal tins in a catering van from Northallerton, we sat eight to a table with proper plates and the tins were put on our table by the dinner-ladies and one child was a monitor and served the food to each person on the table. (We all ate what was put in front of us then, we said our prayer first and were grateful for such a good dinner, no fussy eaters, we loved vegetables, meat and tried everything!)

Then we got a school kitchen, wow! (where the library is now) We had lovely dinner-ladies. I remember, Mrs Shepherd, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Nicholson who would always have a string of children holding her hands in the playground.

The hall was used for everything, PE with ropes and climbing frames, horses to jump, mats to somersault on. We had music, movement and mime, spending many a happy lesson, 'being a tree moving gently in the breeze'?!)

We also had a band, a choir, football league, boy and girl shinty teams, (bit like hockey but with thinner sticks)

Our head was Mr Budd, 'firm but fair'. Our secretary was Mrs Peacock, then Mrs Heaviside, (who the girls thought was beautiful and glamorous because she wore pink lipstick and smelt of roses.)

Roseberry school seemed very modern at the time, all clean lines, fresh and simple, which it was in comparison.

My favourite things about my time at Roseberry school are, Mrs Caton and Miss Thom, history, working in total silence, I loved that. Playing Edith Cavell in an assembly play and Captain Hook in Peter Pan. My worst, apart from friends assuming because your dad (and mum) were teachers you'd be brainy and get help with your homework, (some hope!) was having to do P.E. in your vest and pants if you forgot your kit!! (I only forgot the once, so it definitely made you remember next time!)

I really loved my time at Roseberry and even though it has had to change with the times, I think all the teachers, pupils and heads who have passed through will agree, it was and still is, a happy, fun, well disciplined place to work and learn. My dad thoroughly enjoyed his time as a teacher there and has many happy memories.

I hope I've brought back some memories and smiles from mums, dads, grans and grandads, who are reading this and were also pupils at Roseberry.