

I started at St. Keverne in January 1946 and loved my time there. I remember playing in the garden, hiding in the bushes and running along the paths. I was pleased there were boys there as I had three elder brothers and was used to some rough and tumble.

In the Kindergarten with Miss Lawrence we sat at green tables and had a big stove to keep us warm. After lunch we were obliged to rest with our heads on the table or do some colouring. We had to bring our own colouring books. There was a lovely big rocking horse we could use on special days.

I spent two terms with Miss Roberts and a short time in Upper Transition before moving up to the College Road buildings. I think it was in Lower 1 than I first experienced 'percussion band'. I always hoped for a drum but often got a triangle. We did handwork under Miss Fairman's stern eye as we struggled with sewing and gluing of various items.

We had milk at morning playtime which was warmed in the winter and served in cups. As we got older it was in bottles with straws and froze in winter. In 1947 we were allowed to make slides across the junior playground - I doubt it would be allowed today.

I made lots of good friends in the Junior School but many moved on to other schools at 11. Susan Bagnell, Evelyn Milburn and Christine Wimlett are three names I recall. Those of us who moved into the 3rd Form found a very different regime and lots of new faces. 3 alpha and 3a were virtually parallel although all the 'scholarship girls' were in 3 alpha.

After a year or two the lawns in front were used for building an art and a needlework room. Miss Johnson taught needlework and made us produce samplers of different seams? I found her terrifying until I started Dressmaking after school when I got to know her better.

I loved PE and sports. I am sure we had much more time allocated to them than children today.

My years in Senior School were generally very happy ones although I am not sure the teaching was particularly good. My most vivid memory was taking part in a production of The Tempest at the Rudolph Steiner theatre. I did not have a speaking part but was understudy for Ariel so I had quite a big part to learn. Mrs Rye was the producer and played the part of Prospero.

I stayed an extra year in the 6th form and was appointed headgirl in 1958/9. I went on to Birmingham University to study Social Science although Miss Norris wanted me to do economics.

I was very sad when I learned that Heathfield was to close. After such a good Ofsted report I feel sure it good have flourished but it seems finance was a major issue. I would love to hear from anyone who was in the Senior School from 1952-1959 ish.

Valerie Budd (November 6, 2014)