

Down Memory Lane

Christopher Whittle 1965-1972

I have very happy memories of my time at St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Infant and Junior School. Some may say I was a legend of the playground though that may have something to do with me terrorising the girls in my class!

My abiding memory of my time is that I learnt so much from the excellent teachers, although Sister Mary Benignus did scare me quite a bit! My happiest memories were when I attended Mrs Reed's class, a brilliant teacher who was more like a friend or a 'kindly aunt'.

I used to enjoy playing football in the school yard and remember playing in the school team on Barden playing fields. In those days, school life was very strict but it was still a rewarding and happy time. My favourite subjects were always English and History, which I excelled at. Later in life, I would obtain a degree in History (with education studies).

In conclusion, I can safely say that St John's helped to mould and shape me and was responsible in some ways of making me the person I am today. Whilst it is true I have had troubles along the way, such as the loss of my brother and my experiences of the Hillsborough Disaster and the onset of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), I can point to the fact that St John's, whether church or school has always been part of my life and for that I am truly thankful and eternally grateful.

As regards the school, I did 'return' there in 2005-2006 to do voluntary work at the Thames Avenue Site. You could say that I was drawn back to the school. Again, I learnt so much from the teaching staff.

As the sad day approaches and the closure of the Ivy St Site, I can honestly say that I take with me nothing but good memories.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the staff, teachers, parish priests who have been part of this wonderful school over the years. Sadly many are no longer with us, so I pray for their souls.

God bless you all.

Christopher Whittle