



NEWSLETTER

Blenheim - Now & Then

The Class of '66 Reunion - 15th July 2006

LIFE AFTER BLENHEIM by Julie Christofi



I can't believe it's nearly 40 years since we all started at Blenheim, but it really is and here we all are, about to reunite - I can't wait! In the meantime, here's a potted history of my life since I left Blenheim in 1973

If you remember me, you'll no doubt recall that I was part of an inseparable duo with Denise Baldwin – we were best friends from Day 1 at Blenheim! We both went on to Eastwood High, then did (different) secretarial courses at Southend Tech after that. Sadly though, Denise died in 1979, following a tragic accident.

My plans to become a bilingual secretary on the French/Spanish border were scuppered when, aged just 19, I married Philip, following a holiday romance at Pontins when I was 16. Instead I took a job in the City in 1980 and worked there in various secretarial jobs for about 17 years – nowhere very exciting, although I did have a PA rôle at Hello! Magazine for a while which was quite interesting.

Despite not being at all athletic at school, I've always loved swimming and have completed several (5,000m) swimathons over the years. Also, I took up running in 1993! My marriage to Philip had come to an end after 8 years - he left me and we subsequently divorced – but I joined the local running club and it turned my life around. I made lots of new friends, and spent most of my Sundays running races – all distances, ranging from 5k to marathons (26.2 miles!). I've completed 4 marathons in total, and my PB (personal best time!) is a respectable 3hrs 53mins. Through the running I met John. After just 6 months we moved in together, and 3 months later - on 29 February 1996 - I proposed to him and we subsequently married at Gretna Green a year later. We have two children – a boy who's nearly 8, and a girl of 4. I live in Romford now and am a full-time mum, although I occasionally do secretarial work from home. Well, I hope that's cured your insomnia, and I look forward to seeing you all on 15th July.

TWO TEACHERS REMEMBERED - MRS HIRST & MR FOZZARD by David Brown



40 years on from my first year at Blenheim I am still able to reflect back on the particular impact these two teachers had on me. Mrs Hirst was my teacher of Pink class in the infants. Her career at Blenheim began just a short time before she started teaching our class in the final year before we graduated across the playground to the 'Big School'. She was so kind and I felt even at that young age a desire to learn because of her enthusiasm. Soon afterwards she was promoted to Head Teacher. I can vividly remember her asking questions in assembly. Pupils then queued up outside her door to deliver their answers. Those

who were successful became the proud owner of an I-Spy book!

Mr Fozzard took our final year class in the Juniors. I can remember sitting on a table with Nicholas Connelly, Brett Milton and Karl Druce. We learnt because Mr Fozzard made it fun. He encouraged us to do things that kids two years older than us were doing. He made maths exciting with our Alpha and Beta workbooks. History was always an adventure and when he taught geography you felt as though you were actually visiting these places! He is most famously remembered for introducing us to the ukulele - we were all inspired to persuade our parents to buy us this instrument. Mr Fozzard taught us how to tune the beast - 'My Dog's Got Fleas' we all chanted in unison!! We played various numbers on the school field made famous by George Formby and murdered by us! A true inspiration to me.



How You Can Help

So far we have made direct contact with nearly 60 ex-pupils and have details for a further 25! The best way to reach everyone is 'word of mouth' so if you have kept in touch with or know any ex-pupil please let us know at

classof66@tiscali.co.uk

You can see a full list of all your fellow pupils we have managed to contact so far at www.squirrel-uk.com/status.htm Please contact us if any names jog your memory.

In addition we have an advertisement going in the Evening Echo this month and one in May and June too, and hopefully an article in the Southend Standard as well - watch this space!!

We are trying to locate the old school registers to see which 'house' everyone was in. This will be the theme of the reunion - Hanover, Tudor, Stuart and Windsor.

Tickets will be going on sale at £10 per person to cover the cost of the catering and school hire.

If any of you has a particular suggestion about the reunion please contact Julie Christofi at the e-mail address above.

David Brown.