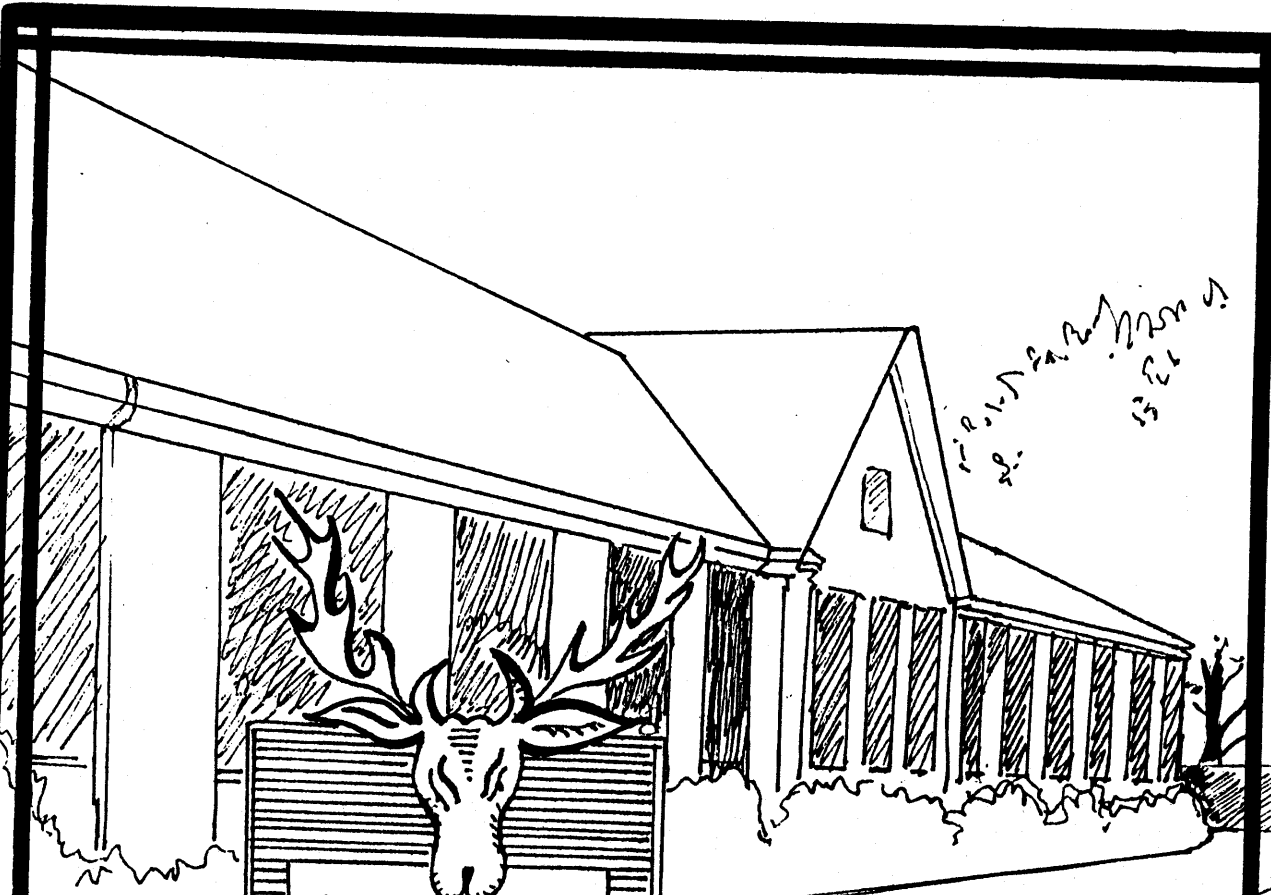


Mrs Bundy unlocks all
the doors cleans the
toilets and hand basins
cleans the hall dining room
She likes all her jobs
it takes her a long
time to clean the toilets
She works hard

Hannah

Mrs Bundy knows
most of the childrens
names
Mrs Bundy gets very
cross when the
children throw water
Mrs Coburn helps
Mrs Bundy.

Stephen



Parkway
Memories

P A R K W A Y M E M O R I E S

1934 - 1984

Some reminiscences of Parkway School
to celebrate its
Golden Jubilee

edited by
Kate Wentworth

illustrated by
Chris Bounsall

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for permission to reproduce extracts from
the newspaper on pages 4, 14, 15 and 25.

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The Welwyn Times

Incorporating "Welwyn News" (1921) and "Welwyn Garden City and Hertfordshire Pilot" CIRCULATING IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HATFIELD, WELWYN AND DISTRICT

No. 324 [REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER] Thursday, November 22 1934 [POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION 1^d 7⁶ PER ANNUM]

WELWYN'S FOURTH SCHOOL

"BIRDCROFT JUNIOR" OPENED
Welwyn Garden City's fourth County Council School was formally opened last Saturday afternoon by County Alderman W. Graveson, the Chairman of the Herts C.C. Education Committee.

The ceremony took place in the assembly hall of the new building, and there was a large attendance of parents and local and county education officials. The building, which will be known as the Birdcroft Junior School is a pleasant, well lighted school of the usual design. In addition to the assembly hall there are nine classrooms, each to accommodate 48 pupils, and the very desirable feature of having all lavatory accommodation under the roof of the main building is included.

At the opening the floors attracted much attention. These are constructed throughout of Australian Jarrah wood, a hard teak-like wood with an attractive reddish brown finish that will stand an infinite amount of hard wear and retain at the same time a pleasant appearance.

The school was designed by Mr. H. Whitaker, the deputy county architect and it was built by Messrs. C. W. Dumbleton of St. Albans at a cost of £12,000. This is equivalent to a cost of £28 per place, and it is a remarkably low price—the average cost is usually in the neighbourhood of £32 per place. 434 juniors, boys and girls were on the books of the new school when it opened on Monday, and the majority of these have been transferred from Handside school, which will now be devoted entirely to senior work.

The Next Step
On Saturday the Rev. W. E. Hardcastle in his remarks introducing Mr. Graveson reminded his listeners of the early days in the town, when just a handful of children used to cross the fields to school at Lensford each day. Then the temporary school in the Lawrence Hall was opened, and shortly afterwards Handside School followed and now they had the present splendid building.

He had rather a guilty conscience when he thought of the patience of the County Council, whom he was sure, looked upon the town as a nest of birds—the more they were given the more they opened their mouths. However the birds really do appreciate what is given them. The scheme was not quite complete, and we now looked forward to a secondary school. (Applause.)

A Satisfactory Result

Alderman Graveson said that he regarded the final financial result of the school as highly satisfactory. Welwyn Garden City must be congratulated on the fact that no other town in the county had such new schools. He hoped that the requests for repairs from the building they were in would not be so frequent as those from Handside School!

The speaker said how much the County Library Committee owe to Mrs. Bonney and her staff for her splendid devotion and enthusiasm. It was an important part of school teaching to train children to use the Library intelligently.

Mr. Graveson also referred to the unavoidable absence of Mr. G. Lindgren. Speaking as a colleague he said that the elderly members of the County Council were very relieved to see youth come into

their circles, but he must confess that sometimes his own feeling was "I'll learn ye something." Dealing with general education matters the speaker said it was extremely important that the elementary and secondary schools should have some common ground. With this was linked the raising of the school age, which must come (applause). This will have the effect of improving the status of the senior elementary classes.

The three fold aim of education as he saw it, said the speaker, was to make the child physically healthy, and mentally alert and to give it a nobility of outlook on life.

Mrs. Pelly, the vice-chairman of the local School Managers moved the vote of thanks to Alderman Graveson for his delightful speech, and she wished good luck to Miss Coe and her staff in the new school.

Miss Coe expressed her deep thanks to the county authorities and the architect and builders for the beautiful building. It was really a palace and it had everything that should make for efficiency, success and honour. She appealed to the parents to help her and the staff as they had done in the past.

I PARKWAY SCHOOL 1934 - 1939

Welwyn Garden City's fourth school was officially opened on the afternoon of Saturday 17th November 1934, by the Chairman of the County Education Committee, County Alderman W. Graveson. It was to be called Birdcroft School. 434 juniors were admitted the next Monday, as described by Mary Ashcroft and Janet Owen in the first two of our reminiscences.

At that time, the Garden City had a population of about ten thousand - a new town on a site where only about 200 people had lived just fourteen years earlier. The first three schools in the town were, in order of age: Handside (now Applecroft), Peartree and Ludwick. Most of the pupils starting at the new school transferred from Handside School which was then, as the Welwyn Times report on the opening of the new school put it, 'devoted entirely to senior work'.

The headmistress of the new school was Miss Alice Coe. She remained there until her retirement in 1946. Many of our memories centre on her: she 'lived for the school'; 'her standards were high', and 'she didn't suffer fools gladly'; she was a 'headmistress of the old school'. Her stern discipline is remembered by many. A few also recollect her concern not just for the standards of the school, but for individual pupils, taking them to concerts and even on outings to the seaside.

The school must have shed its original name early on, taking its name from Parkway instead. Its design was in the usual pattern of a school at that time. The Welwyn Times report of the opening describes it like this:

'it is a pleasant, well lighted school of the usual design. In addition to the assembly hall there are nine classrooms, each to accommodate 48 pupils, and the very desirable feature of having all lavatory accommodation under the roof of the main building is included. At the opening the floors attracted much attention. These are constructed throughout of Australian Jarrah wood, a hard teak-like wood with an attractive reddish-brown finish that will stand an infinite amount of hard wear and retain at the same time a pleasant appearance. The school was built at a cost of £12,000. This is equivalent to a cost of £28 per place, and it is a remarkably low price - the average cost is usually in the neighbourhood of £32 per place.'

* * *

50 Years Ago in Parkway School Mary Ashworth

I was a pupil at Applecroft School from 1930 - 1934 and was in the 'top class' when the infants and juniors moved along the road to the newly built Parkway School. My younger twin sisters, Enid and Jeanne, were also pupils at Applecroft and Parkway, and these reminiscences include some of their memories and mine, from 1934 - 38.

The day we moved:

I can still remember the chilly, damp autumn day during which the top class - 48 children - walked along Applecroft and Barleycroft Roads carrying equipment - boxes of chalk, crayons, pens, pencils, scissors, etc, and on one of the journeys trailing to and fro, a wooden chair each. Presumably the larger pieces of furniture were entrusted to Dollimores or Tingey's, and I think we had brand new 'double seater' desks in our new classroom.

Miss Coe, quite rightly 'drummed into us' that the new school was very splendid and that we were to take special care of the school hall floor, a 'parquet' floor of some rare Australian wood. Every child had to have a pair of 'house shoes' to change into at school and a marked shoe bag to carry these to and from school, four times a day. (Everyone, children and teachers, went home for lunch from 12.00 to 2.00pm - the school was locked.)

The children enjoyed the hall too, for it could be used for dancing, for listening to schools broadcasts, as well as for morning prayers. The indoor lavatories were a great 'boon'. (Those at Applecroft were outside, across the playground, with 'three quarter' doors, so they were dark, damp and altogether to be avoided.) But to keep the new lavatories clean and pleasant, girls from the top class had to do 'toilet supervision' for the younger children. (No welfare helpers in the 1930's!)

We can remember very little detail of the teaching and lessons. The daily routine was arithmetic and English every morning and more English or a wireless programme, physical exercises, dancing, drama, craft in the afternoon. We had daily and weekly tests of 'mental' arithmetic and spelling. Miss Coe used to test the top class who were taking 'the scholarship'. She often gave us dictation and expected a very high standard. I remember her scathing remarks when no-one in our class had spelled PARTIAL correctly. We all had variations on PARSHAL, not surprising since it came in a passage way above our understanding. No-one had any idea what it meant.

We enjoyed craft of all kinds - making cardboard models, felt toys, knitting, sewing, weaving. School knitting was not popular in our family, it was a great 'come-down' after the knitting we did at home with proper wool and needles and making wearable jerseys for ourselves and our dolls. School knitting always seemed to be in 'dishcloth' yarn on sticky wooden needles, each completed row to be shown to the teacher before starting the next. We never knew what became of these dishcloths!

The twins' teacher introduced embroidery and two table runners, with a cross-stitch dragon design are still in our use. Being practised and neat at sewing they and another girl (? Sybil) were given the honour of sewing the hems of the new brick red stage curtains in herring bone stitch. This they did in the afternoons continuing long after 4 o'clock.

'Top class' children were given many jobs and duties: bell monitors (boys), stationery monitors (a coveted job), tea monitresses (girls) who were excused ten minutes before afternoon playtime to make tea for the teachers and carry it to their classrooms, without spilling, too!

We can remember some of our teachers well. Mr Owen, Miss Rowley, Miss Southwell, Miss Barford and Miss Mein who played the piano for country dancing and singing. But Miss Coe was 'to be obeyed', and perhaps because of her spectacles or her penetrating voice, or her intolerance of any 'explanations', we were often frightened of 'Co-Co' as we called her. But she was very kind to individuals.

Miss Coe was not only very particular about the hall floor and the state of the lavatories, she was a stickler for punctuality and for the meticulous recording of the attendance registers, sent to her twice a day for 'inking-in'.

I can still recall the feeling of utter panic I had one afternoon, when, on reaching the corner of Russellcroft and Guessens Roads, I realised that I had left my shoe bag at home. What was I to do? I could continue to school to be 'found out' and sent to Miss Coe for not changing my shoes, or I could return home for the shoes and then be late for school. Whichever I did I should receive the wrath and displeasure of Miss Coe! So I burst into tears by the familiar Berberis bushes! A passer-by enquired what was the matter and suggested that I went home. This I did and after drying my eyes my mother sent me on my way again with my shoe bag and a reminder that Miss Coe's bark was worse than her bite.

I cannot remember any special occasions except the fun of sports days, of dancing round the maypole and of Christmas parties with salmon sandwiches prepared by our mothers. Summer days were best - we would sometimes have lessons out of doors, sitting on the hot grass while a story was read. Walking home the length of Parkway did not seem too far then, for it was mostly meadowland with flowering grasses, scabious and poppies.

Mary Ashworth
Welwyn Garden City

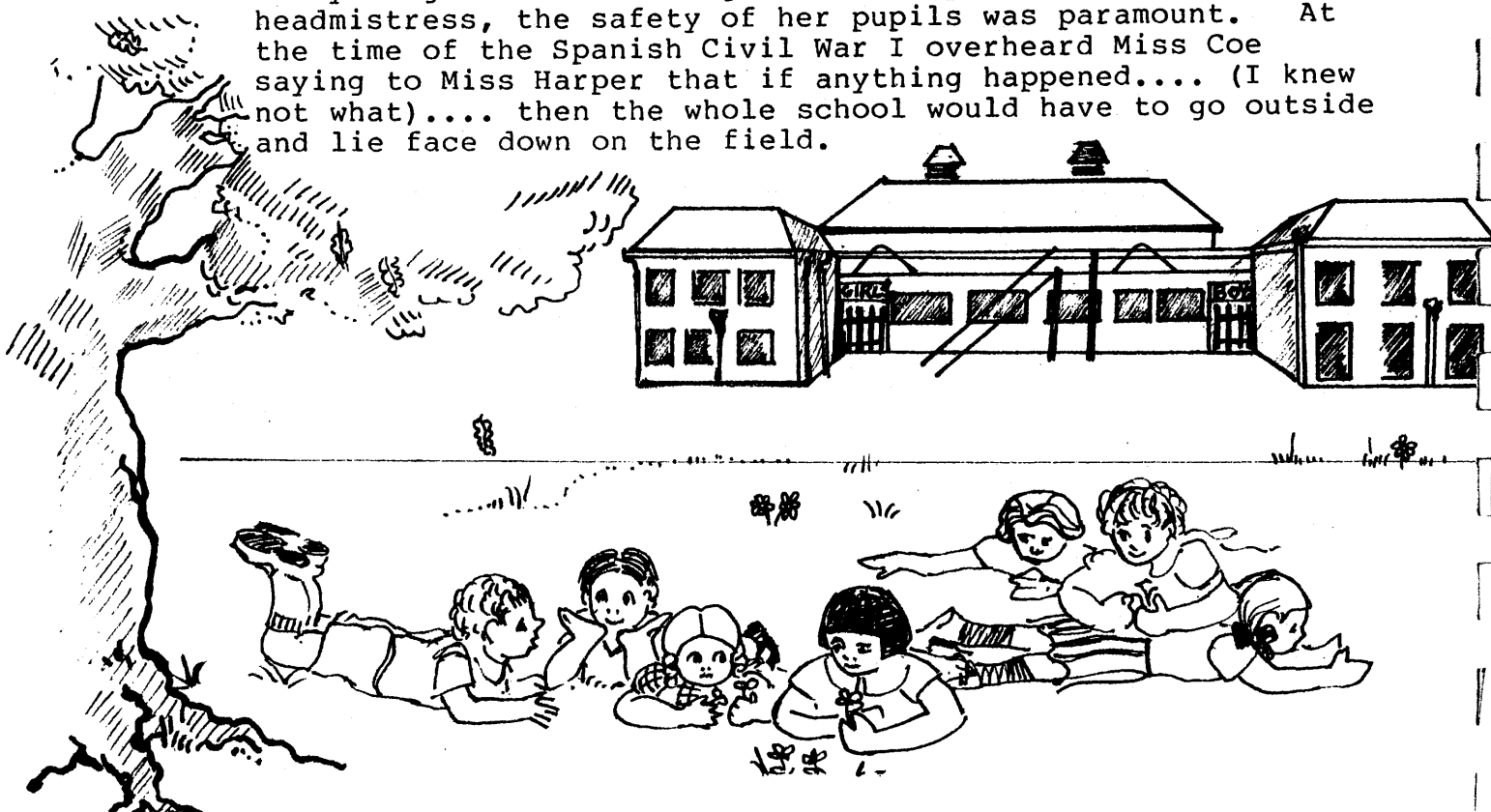
Memories of Parkway School 1934 - 1937 Janet Owen (Hardie)

Parkway School opened on a morning shrouded in thick fog, this served to make the interior of the new school appear even brighter as the lights had been switched on. The classroom doors gleamed green paint and the reddish-brown floors shone, as did the honey coloured desks we sat at in pairs. I think we were all glad to find the lavatories were indoors unlike the outdoor ones we had been used to at Handside.

Parkway School in the 'Thirties' consisted of both infants and juniors. The headmistress, Miss Alice Coe, moved into the new school with her pupils from Applecroft (then Handside), leaving James Nichol behind as head of Handside Senior School. Miss Coe's career was her life, we were all in awe of her and so I think were her staff. She would tolerate no nonsense from her pupils and she kept a cane in her office using it as occasion demanded.

Of short stature, Miss Coe dressed smartly wearing cardigan type suits and elegant silk blouses. She wore medium heeled court shoes, some of which sported large decorative buckles. Her Marcel waved grey hair was slightly bobbed at the back; she had bright expressive eyes. Her mannerisms included chewing the ends of her spectacles and passing her hand over her face like the comedian Robb Wilton.

Miss Coe possessed a very good singing voice. During our singing in the hall she would admonish us for sliding our notes. She loved to demonstrate vocally what not to do with our voices - I thought she sounded like Gracie Fields. At morning prayers we said in unison, 'Our father which ARCH in heaven.....'; there followed a hymn, more often than not, 'All things bright and beautiful'; then Miss Coe would say a few words of wisdom. She instilled in us the danger of speaking to strangers, so much so that in my case I regularly imagined I was being followed by all and sundry. As headmistress, the safety of her pupils was paramount. At the time of the Spanish Civil War I overheard Miss Coe saying to Miss Harper that if anything happened.... (I knew not what).... then the whole school would have to go outside and lie face down on the field.



I wonder how many old pupils remember Miss Coe's car? It was an Austin Seven - FPC 17.

One day Miss Coe invited me to accompany her to Frinton. I was quite used to travelling with her as she would sometimes take me to Robert's Garage in Whitwell, or to Hoddesdon where she bought plants for her garden; she was particularly fond of hanging baskets. The day we went to Frinton we were accompanied by Mrs Thresh* who we deposited near Colchester, arranging to pick her up again on the way home.

In Frinton we visited Miss Coe's brother and his family. During the afternoon we went on the beach and while I struggled into my bathing costume Miss Coe removed her shoes and stockings. I have a vague recollection that at some time she had suffered an injury to one of her legs and she thought the sea water would do it good. Miss Coe paddled up and down the seashore while I swam a few feet away from her. After tea we started for home. Mrs Thresh was waiting at the prescribed place at the correct time - even an adult would not dare to keep Miss A. M. Coe waiting. In spite of a knocking noise which developed in the car engine, we arrived home safely. Our next trip was to Robert's Garage, needless to say.

I have one frightening moment to relate with regard to Miss Coe's 'Baby Austin'. One afternoon I accompanied her to the Post Office in Howardsgate. Miss Coe had entered the Post Office leaving me in the car. Suddenly, several (what I called then) 'big boys' came up behind the stationary car and, obviously recognising whose it was, gave it a good shove. To my horror the car started to move forward and I sat there not knowing what to do. Fortunately, what felt like yards to me was probably only feet in distance and the car soon came to a standstill. When Miss Coe got back in the car she was muttering something about the handbrake. I was too terrified both by what had happened, and by her being the indomitable Miss Coe, to dare make mention of the incident.

The top class children were often entrusted with special jobs. We helped to make tea for the staff and ate spoonfuls of dry tea and sugar while waiting for Miss Coe. She insisted that the tea should be poured into the cups from a particular height. We also opened the front door to visitors. One day, when I was allotted this duty, I opened the door to find an enormous black lady standing on the steps. I showed her into the headmistress' room wondering what she had come for. It turned out she was calling on schools in the area in her capacity as entertainer. Miss Coe accepted her on the spot. The children were ushered into the hall and we sat and listened to Negro Spirituals being sung by this jovial lady, who accompanied herself on the piano. In some of her more humorous songs she contorted her face to such an extent that Miss Coe, who was standing close by, laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks.

*the mother of the next contributor

Miscellaneous Memories

- Medical cards were about a foot square in size - blue for boys, pink for girls.
- Nurse Bateman : stiff, starchy and unsmiling, met us at the Lawrence Hall when we arrived, trembling, to have our teeth pulled.
- Pink lint and iodine predominated in the teacher's First Aid box
- Oxo tins held almost anything.
- Rulers were used to smack our open hands - particularly by Miss Garner.
- Black arm bands were worn when King George V died.
- We dug the flower beds in front of the school to sow seeds of red, white and blue flowers, to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI.
- Knickers for games were made out of brown 'Sparva' material.
- A knitting pattern was in circulation for the school jumper - bright orangy yellow wool could be bought from the school.
- The original brown school blazers were bound with yellow braid.
- Many boys wore hob-nail type boots.
- 'Straws' for drinking milk were actually STRAW and milk was not in bottles.
- Violin lessons were given by Sidney Rumbelow.
- In the playground we bounced our own sorbo rubber balls to the rhyme of 'Nebuchadnezzar the King of the Jews, bought his wife a pair of shoes....'
- We played with cigarette cards.
- Favourite words of the headmistress: DUFFER, DUNCE, HOOLIGAN..... She was quick to use these labels.
- The Maypole dancing team gave exhibitions at local fetes. A display at the Shredded Wheat factory had to be abandoned, as the Maypole proved to be too high for the ceiling of the Bryce Hall (the recreation hall of the Shredded Wheat Company) and rain prevented us dancing outside.

- When I was in the top class a new easel and blackboard arrived. The board was in fact green and Miss Coe wrote on it with yellow chalk. However, she was not very impressed with the result and said as much to the class teacher.
- The strict Miss Garner wore her blonde hair in a plait round her head.
- Miss Burton seldom smiled.
- Miss Barford's vitality made her a good organiser for activities on the school field. Some of these activities were filmed by Councillor John Chear.
- The more amiable teachers were: Miss Harper, Miss Humphrey, Miss Jarvis and Miss Southwell. Miss Crowther was a delightful little person who took us for music and movement; I well remember our attempts at gliding across the floor when she played 'The Skater's Waltz'.
- We wore enamelled brooches the size of a sixpence to denote which 'house' we belonged to - green for Linnet, yellow for Wren, red for Robin and blue for Lark.
- In the top class Miss Coe read to us from the book 'Vice Versa'; this caused much laughter but more from her than from us.

Janet Owen (Hardie)
Welwyn Garden City





Memories of Parkway School Lesley Frankton (Thresh)

- Long wooden floored corridors with hanging baskets which had to be watered with a teapot whilst standing on a chair and arranging a bucket to catch the drips.
- The wooden 'roll of honour' in the hall with the scholarship names.*
- Swotting for the scholarship. This included a small black book with extra information to be learnt by heart, eg Members of the Cabinet! Going to the Hitchin Girls' Grammar School for the exams.
- Everyone standing when Miss Coe entered the classroom.
- Afternoon cups of tea carried to the teachers in the classrooms.
- Not all hard academic work - weekly instalments of 'The Wind in the Willows' with the relevant chalk pictures done by the teacher on the blackboard. It must have taken all her lunch hour to do it.
- Handwork which included: knitting a red doll's hat one of cotton in a 'T' shape to be sewn into the right shape; making stuffed toys out of felt - a grey rabbit holding an orange carrot and a white duck wobbling precariously on orange feet. I cannot remember what happened to these things as I am sure they were never at home. Were there sales? One thing I did have for years was a brown and yellow (school colours) scarf woven on a Dryad fixed heddle loom. The warp was made by winding the wool round pegs in the blackboard easel. I must have learnt something from this as I am still making warps for my great interest now is weaving. This is how I heard of the Parkway project by meeting a fellow weaver in Galashiels.

Lesley Frankton (Thresh)
Darlington

*The roll of honour is mentioned by many old Parkway pupils. It has disappeared.

* * *

Not all memories of Miss Coe are happy ones. The next contributor suffered from her stern aspect.

* * *

Rosemary Sangster

I started at the Parkway School in 1936 at the age of 5. Although I only spent half a term there, I do remember the dreaded Miss Coe, and that short period was coloured by her presence.

My main recollection of the school is of Miss Coe standing at the top of a shallow flight of stairs. We had to pass her on our way back from play and dinner. Grim faced, with short iron grey hair, she held a long cane in her hand as we scuttled past in fear and trembling. This was supposed to serve as a reminder of what would happen if we misbehaved.

I remember being given a box of wooden shapes to sort out in class, and they all had to be packed away properly before the bell went. Heaven help you if you didn't accomplish the task in the allotted time - it was a visit to Miss Coe!

I was reduced to such a drivelling state of nerves and needed so much cajoling to go to school that my parents took me away and sent me to the convent across the road. The contrast between the gentle nuns and Miss Coe had to be seen to be believed.

Thank goodness they don't make teachers like her any more - or do they?



Rosemary J. Sangster
Welwyn Garden City

Fold out

II THE FIRE

Parkway School was gutted by fire in March 1939. The school records perished along with everything else. Miss Coe notes in the new Log Book she started a few days later:

March 27th Parkway School destroyed by fire on Sunday night March 26th 1939.

All records lost.

Elsie Turner remembers her son Peter, then aged about ten, running home that Monday morning. The conversation went like this:

Peter came dancing in: 'School's burnt! School's burnt!'
'Peter!'
'School's burnt.'
'Don't give me that, Peter!'
Peter, seriously this time: 'It is true, Mummy, school's burnt. She's sent us home.'
'Well, you'd better come in and read a book.'

The fire was started deliberately. The culprit was convicted later in the year. Apparently he was a youth commonly known as 'Dopey Barker'.

The authorities were left with the problem of 400 or so children without a school. The Welwyn Times of 6 April 1939 reports one suggestion from the headmaster of Handside School:

To Be Taught In The Open

A unique step in the education of pupils at Handside School is to take place during the summer months, when it is proposed to teach most of the students in the environment of Sherrardspark Woods.

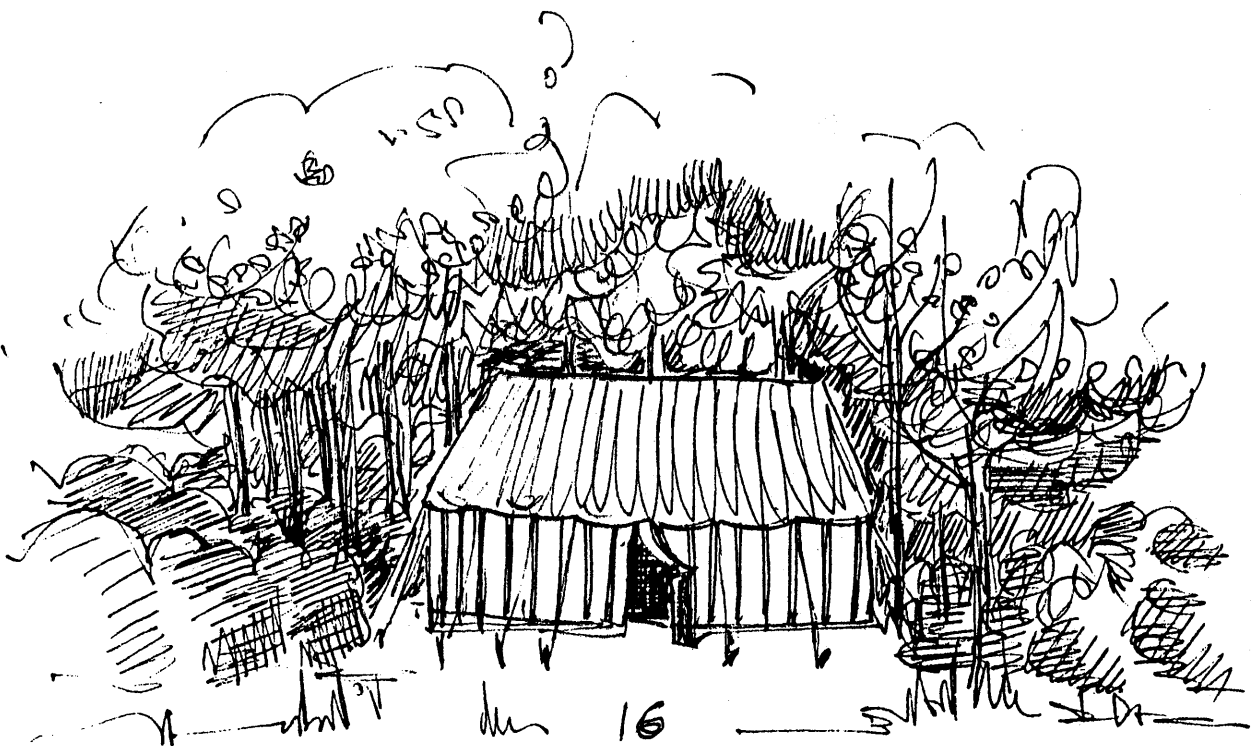
This revolutionary decision has been necessitated the complete destruction of Parkway School by fire last week, when 400 children of eleven years of age and under found themselves without educational facilities. Mr J. Nichol, headmaster of Handside School, suggested to the school managers that if they agreed to his proposal to 'transfer' his own pupils to the woods the 'homeless' children could be accommodated at Handside. After some discussion they agreed.

Arrangements are as yet only in their preliminary stages, and the scheme, of course, depends on the fitness of the weather, but parents need have no fear that their children will suffer from sitting on damp grass or from any other ill that the imagination might conjure up. The care of the children will be the first consideration and elaborate arrangements are being made to safeguard their health.

Every educational facility will be provided and the children will be taught in the shelter of large marquees. Plans are already being drawn up for the laying on of water and other necessities.

How far this idea got has not been discovered - but no former Handside pupils have come forward with memories of being taught in the woods! Instead classes were run at Handside and in other halls and rooms nearby. It was to be more than ten years before the school could be accommodated under one roof again. Miss Coe notes the arrangements in her Log Book:

- March 29th 1939 Three classes commenced work at Handside School this morning, 1A, 1B and Special Class.
- April 3rd Teachers not engaged with classwork, commenced making apparatus.
- April 17th Part of school assembled this morning. 1A, 1B and Special Class at Handside School. Infants assembled at St Francis Hall - classes VI, VII and VIII.
- April 19th The remainder of school, classes II, III, IV, and V assembled this morning at Handside School.
- April 21st Number on roll 394
Average attendance 345
Mumps prevalent.
- April 25th Classes arranged as follows:
1A - V at Handside School
VI at Backhouse room nearby
VII, VIII and Special Class at St Francis hall.



III THE SCHOOL IN WARTIME 1939 - 1945

The first year of the war must have been especially difficult for Miss Coe and the school. Classes were scattered until they were able to move into the reconstructed buildings in March 1940. Evacuated children had to be accommodated, and the weather in early 1940 was harsh. Miss Coe is never more than factual in her Log Book:

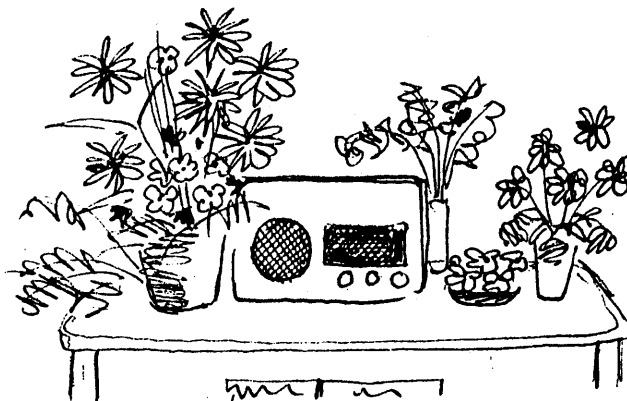
- Sept 18th 1939 Number of evacuees admitted, official, unofficial.
- Sept 19th Miss Harrison HMI visited this morning. Mr Bloom HMI, Mr Jeffries HMI, Miss Harrison HMI and Miss X visited this afternoon to ascertain what arrangements had been made, staffing, number of evacuees and any difficulties.
- Oct 10th Children at St Francis' hall were fifteen minutes late today starting lessons. There has been a lack of punctuality at times. Miss Barford will be sent down morning and afternoon to see that children are in time.



- Dec 19th Children attended cinema at 10.30.
- Jan 15th 1940 HMV gramophone presented to the school.
- Jan 30th Attendance very low owing to weather conditions. Heating apparatus insufficient. School dismissed Thursday morning.
- Feb 1st The Chairman of the Managers asked that school be dismissed until Monday morning. Top three classes will work at Backhouse room and St Francis hall.

At last, in early March 1940, the rebuilt school was ready.
From the Log Book again:

- March 1st A half day holiday given this afternoon to allow for moving.
- March 4th Parkway reopened at nine o'clock. Mr Todd finishes duty today, having entered the Army. A temporary teacher will be appointed. Six children admitted. Three pianos, a radiogram and table model wireless arrived today. Flowers for the whole school and the Head's room sent by a parent with good wishes for continued success and happiness.



Air Raids and Evacuees

It is amazing that the school managed to continue with normal work, particularly during the early years of the war. The school roll was swelled by evacuees. Often several air raids in one day would drive pupils and teachers to shelter, crowded into the corridors. Holiday dates were altered on various occasions; once because of the invasion threat in May 1940. In 1942 the school was opened during the summer holidays for evacuees and others (probably children whose mothers were involved in war work). And enthusiastic efforts were put into raising money for the war - the children were rewarded for their hard work by a half holiday one day in March 1941. Here are the stark facts recorded in the Log Book:

- April 22nd 1940 A small class belonging to the evacuated school St Ignatius is now accommodated upstairs on the north side.
- May 10th School closes for Whitsun vacation.

May 14th School reassembled this morning, holidays cancelled owing to the national emergency.

May 29th Dr Gray called in re air raids.

June 10th National Savings - commenced special effort and Parents' Group (£112.15.6d).

July 22nd An evacuated school came in to use the hall this morning.

August 12th Twenty-four children from Hastings admitted under the evacuation scheme. Total on roll 534.

July 26th - August 12th summer holiday.

August 23rd - September 2nd holiday.

Sept 3rd Twenty-four children admitted. Air raid warning sounded this morning. Children assembled in corridors, and remained for nearly two hours. Air raid warning this afternoon - children in corridors one hour.

Sept 4th Air raid warning about 9.30. Children assembled in corridor. The chairman of the Managers was present.

Sept 5th Number on roll 470.

Sept 25th Dr Gray and a county representative called in concerning blackout for the school.

Oct 9th School has reassembled this morning. Two time bombs were dropped just outside the front of the school by enemy aircraft on the night of September 26th last. The school therefore could not meet. Both bombs were removed yesterday.



Oct 14th Children in corridors most of today,
owing to raids.

Oct 30th School went to see the German plane at
Campus this afternoon.

(This was part of Welwyn Garden City's Spitfire Week. The Welwyn Times, on October 31st, reports: The Messerschmidt 109, which is on view on the Campus, has proved a big attraction for young and old alike and will be open for inspection for the remainder of the week. The collections from this source to date amount to £58.1.0d.)

Nov 11th Children spent most of the time in
corridors owing to air raid 'alerts'.

Nov 27th Air raid alert 3.50 - 4.20.

Nov 29th Air raid alert 10.50 - 12.00.

Dec 3rd Air raid alarm 11.25 - 12.00
Air raid alert 2.02 - 2.35.

Dec 5th Air raid alert 1.50 - 2.25.

(The air raids continued into the beginning of February 1941. The sirens sounded three times during the school day on January 7th, January 31st and February 3rd and four times on January 21st.)

Feb 12th 1941 Mr France brought in Mr de Soissons
and Sergeant Parker (Home Guard).
They asked for the use of a room, pre-
ferably on the ground floor, and a key
to the building.
V53 was handed over.

March 5th Head at meeting (clothing evacuees).

March 6th This being War Weapons Week attention
has been directed to savings.
£177.19.6d. today.

March 7th £206 total amount collected.

March 21st There will be a half holiday this
afternoon on account of the schools
doing so well during the last week,
War Weapons Week.

March 31st Mr Whittaker called concerning
'imminent danger' signal, to be con-
nected with the school.

June 21st Miss Rand summoned by Hastings Educa-
tion Authority to return two classes
now without teachers.

Sept 9th 11 classes.

1939 - 1941

I can remember attending PARKWAY shortly after the war started - my father's section of ICI was moved out to WGC from central London. I vividly remember walking to school with a friend - walking through the Welwyn Stores and picking up a tobacco tin (empty) from a scrap metal collection box - and kicking it all the way down to the school.

My only other remembrance is that my name was recorded twice on the Roll of Honour! This roll listed all those who passed the entrance exams to grammar schools - and I was listed for both WGC and Hitchin schools.



Leslie F. Shephard
Perth, Western Australia

* * *

Mrs A Morris, at Parkway 1938 - 1945

I was already attending Parkway School in 1939. I can remember having classes following the fire in St Francis Hall.

The school was later closed for a while as two unexploded bombs had landed on the pavement outside the school.

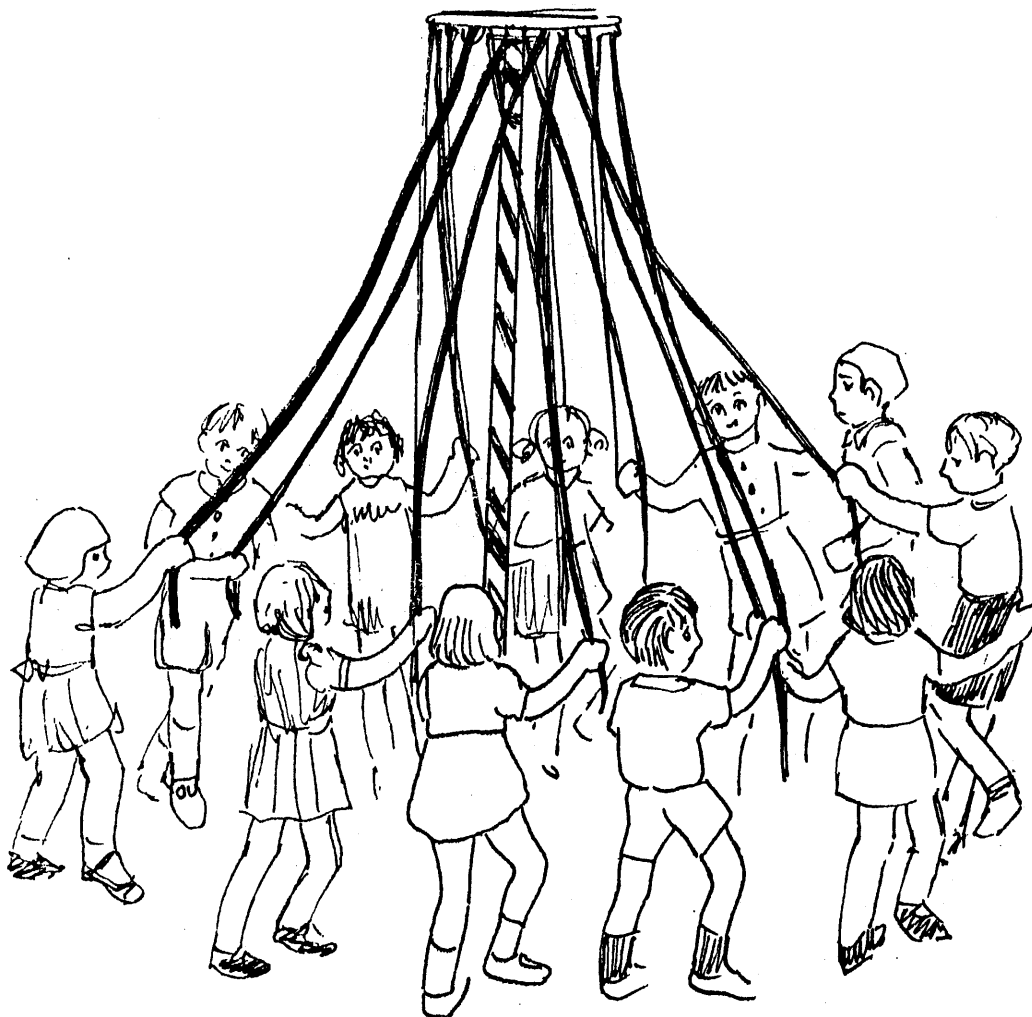
The classes were 38 - 42, occasionally up to 45. No school was evacuated en bloc but there were individual evacuees at the school.

During the air raids, the top class took the bottom class into the shelter, no room for the rest of us! We sat in the corridors, away from the outside windows and were led in singing - Run Rabbit Run was a favourite. The school was open in the holidays with play activities watched over by teachers, for those of us whose mothers had been drafted or volunteered for war work. We went for dinner to Trevelyan House in Church Road, walking up and back supervised of course.

Mrs Parker was the school caretaker, a very motherly person who would cuddle and comfort the children who had fallen over, or who were in trouble with Miss Coe. There was a small remedial class of 5 - 10 children. Miss Coe had great success with many children passing the scholarship. I can remember taking 5/- to have my name inscribed in gold leaf on the Honours Board which hung in the hall. We were so proud when as 'grown-up' grammar school girls we took advantage of our then longer holidays and went back at 11½ to see our names on 'our board'.

We used to have a maypole erected in the hall and were taught complicated dances whereby the ribbons were plaited.

Mrs A Morris
Welwyn Garden City



Parkway Junior, 1939 - 1945 Mary D Halsey (Kennedy)

I started in St Francis Church Hall September 1939. There were three classes to start with but later only two, 1st year and 2nd year. Miss Southwell was the teacher. During the air raids we all sat in the corridors, with reinforced glass at the outside, and Mrs Mein played the piano in the hall and we sang all the songs of the day.

Miss Coe was the headmistress, a small bespectacled lady, who seemed very old to a 5 year old child.

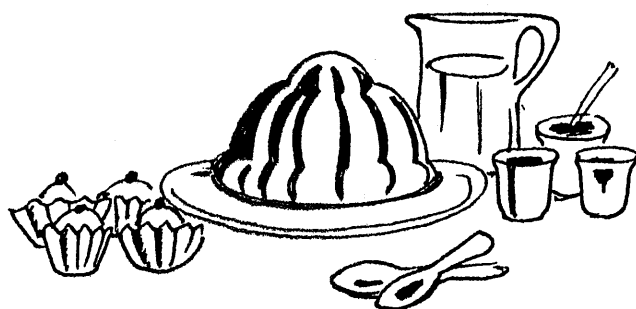
The only male teacher was Mr Owen who took the senior class. He was known as 'Pop'. Most of the teachers were older women as the men were at war. Nurse Bateman was the school nurse, a very forceful and military type of person. She inspected heads etc, and had a clinic at a house in Parkway.

There was no canteen or kitchen so children who could not go home for dinner went to Trevelyan House in Church Road. Due to rationing there were no school parties but I can remember taking a cup, plate and spoon during one of the summer terms - might have been for VE or VJ parties. A cake and drink of squash plus a jelly. Real treat! Sports days were held annually and we all had to dance round the maypole. Church at St Francis Church on 24th May, Empire Day, then off for the rest of the day as well as Ascension Thursday, but back to school after that.

The baby class was great fun and when I was in the senior class (1944-45) we were allowed to help in there. Each child had a job in the class; clean the blackboard, do the inkwells, hand out the books to the other classes. Very good library and again the senior children were allowed to help the younger children.

Despite the distraction of the air raids a very good standard of education was given to all the classes. The senior two classes were allowed to go to the air raid shelter built on the triangle at the bottom of Parkway just by the school.

Mary D Halsey (Kennedy)



The first great event at the school after Victory Celebrations on 8th and 9th May 1945, was the visit to the school of R. A. Butler, then Minister of Education. It was, of course, only during the previous year that he had seen his famous Education Act through Parliament. Here is a copy of the page of the Log Book signed by him and other distinguished visitors on 15th May:

82

- May 7 Nurse visited this morning.
- May 7 School closes for Victory celebrations.
May 8th & 9th.
- 16th School reassembled today.
- May 15th R. A. Butler.
 Geo. Lindgren
 Salt Newsman.
 Mr. Osborn
 N. D. Palmer
 W. S. Birkett
 K. E. Burley.
- May 14th Miss Waite absent, having to undergo an operation.
- May 15 Mrs. Wesson on supply.
 The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler visited the school today - with Mr. Birkett H.M.I., the County Education Officer and members of the Education Committee.
 Members of the Press and local managers were also present.
- May 16th Nurse visited for cleanliness inspections.
- 17th Mrs. Wesson finished duty 'on supply' today.

The Welwyn Times of 17th May gives us more detail:

WHERE IS SNOWDON? ASKS MINISTER OF EDUCATION

THE Minister of Education, Mr R. A. Butler visited Parkway School on Tuesday.

On arrival at the school, he was met by Miss Coe, the headmistress, who was introduced to him by Alderman George S. Lindgren.

Mrs Osborn, Chairman of the local education committee; Mrs Burley, Miss Palmer, and the Rev. L. A. Brown, members of the committee, were also presented to him.

Mr Butler then began his tour of the school, taking particular interest in physical training instruction which was going on in the playground, and in the infant classes.

He spoke to Michael Casey in one of the P.T. squads, and in a geography class he asked a child where Snowdon was.

He seemed very interested in the infants class and was impressed by the light and airiness of the school buildings.

His tour of the school concluded in

the hall where a percussion band gave a performance. Mrs Mein was at the piano.

She also played for the Maypole dancing. The children ended up by making a V-formation to music.

Mr Butler praised the children's performance and said that judging by their faces they were happy enough, which after all was a very important requirement of sound education.

Mr Butler was accompanied by Alderman Williams, Chairman of the County Education Committee; Mrs Wheelwright, of the County Education Committee; Mr G. Newsom, County Education Officer; Mr Birkett, H.M.I.; Mr E. G. Simm, District Education Officer for this area; and other officials.

The other great event before Miss Coe's retirement was the use of the school by the Crown Film Unit to make an educational film. This must have been suggested early in 1945. Miss Coe notes on 7th March:

'Mr Bryant and Mr Mortimer called to watch children with a view to making a film.'

The work started after the summer holidays. Here are the Log Book entries recording the film's progress:

Sept 18th	Mr Birkett HMI and the film director came in this morning.
Oct 1st	Mr Owen has gone to Pinewood Studios, Bucks with the two boys for screen tests - since the school is being filmed.
Oct 2nd	Head teacher left at 10.30 this morning to take four small girls to Pinewood Studios for screen tests.

Nov 15th	The film director called and secretary.
Dec 7th	Miss Armstrong from the Ministry of Education called this morning to watch for suitable shots from PT and dancing.
Jan 23rd 1946	The Crown Film Unit brought all camera equipment this afternoon.
Jan 24th	Shooting schedule commenced today and will continue some days.
March 28th	Film people still at work.
April 2nd	Crown Film Unit finished today.

In September Sheila Hunt started work as Clerical Assistant to Miss Coe. Her memories of these months - and of the film making in particular - bring the school to life.

* * *

Sheila Benson (Hunt)

In September 1945 I was Miss Sheila Hunt, 14 years of age and appointed Clerical Assistant to the headmistress Miss Coe.

I had my own office next to her room and remember how kind she was towards me. Miss Coe used to take me to the theatre in the West End and I particularly remember the Vic Oliver Show at the Coliseum where she left me to go back stage after the show and came back for me later. I felt she was very fond of me and allowed me to take care of her when she was ill.

I shall always remember the musical shows every year directed by Mrs Mein. The songs were wonderful, I memorised them all.

At that time the Crown Film Unit came to the school. They were making a series of short films and this was educational - Maurice Denham and Jane Walsh were the parents and David and Helen, two children from Parkway, were chosen to act the Home Life. I remember the set; living room, kitchen, children's bedroom and a railway carriage. I was in charge of these children and they were naughty at times because we were issued a changing room and were kept waiting for long periods. I remember the canteen, very large and we had ours with Maurice Denham - he was quite attentive towards us.

When the unit was in the school the whole atmosphere was upset - pupils were excited, teachers frustrated and Miss Coe angry most of the time, not with the film crew but behind the scenes so I had to bear it.

The last day of filming they brought with them an actress to be headmistress - she was a tall dark haired lady so unlike our Miss Coe who was small and wore beautiful clothes with pretty white hair. She was furious.

Sheila Benson (Hunt)
Welwyn Garden City

* * *

We have tried to trace this film, without success. It must be in the Film Archive, but even if it were found it could not be shown without spending a great deal of money in order to have a copy made.

V MR WORTHY

Miss Coe retired at the end of the spring term, 1946, and Mr Worthy took over as headmaster after the Easter holiday. Here is his first entry in the Log Book:

April 29th I, Arthur Worthy, have today commenced duty as headmaster of Parkway Primary School.

Sheila Hunt remembers Mr Worthy when he was interviewed for the post - she worked at the school until 1950.

* * *

The Saturday morning of the interviews for the new head, Miss Coe was hiding in the Stock Room and I was with her, she would send me out with cups of tea and report all that was going on, when Mr Worthy burst into the room where we were making the tea and said, 'You missed me'. Miss Coe promptly said 'He won't get the post, he's too noisy and clumsy'.



I do remember one day Mr Worthy took me down to the Reception Class (5 year olds) and asked them what they thought I did all day as I didn't have a class of children. The answers were really amusing - 'Miss Hunt plays with you in your room' - 'Miss Hunt helps you count all your money'.

I remember we had 750 children - 11 classes in the building and 10 classes in buildings around the area and Mr Worthy visited each of these every day.

During the school holidays I had to work in the Education Office under Miss Fitzjohn the DEO in Guessens Road. Then Templewood School was opened taking half the children including my own sister, Gillian. The Clerical Assistant hours were cut and as part-time work wasn't suitable for me (then aged 19 years) I left Parkway and joined the work force of the Danish Bacon Company.

Sheila Benson (Hunt)

Mr Worthy was a popular and respected headmaster, and Parkway must have been a lively, happy and hardworking junior school under him. He encouraged the Parent-Teacher Association which was very active under him. His main problem was pressure of numbers. The town was expanding and the postwar bulge in the birthrate swelled the school roll to 752 in 1950, just before Templewood School was opened. Here are some of Mr Worthy's notes in the Log Book:

- May 29th 1946 A meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association was called to enable parents and staff to get to know each other. About 180 parents and the whole school staff were present.
- Sept 9th Opened school after summer holidays. It has become necessary to form an extra class in St Francis Hall until the Guide Hut becomes available.
- Sept 19th Mr Duckering took children who were not members of the Public Library to 9 Guessens Road where they had a talk on the use of the Library. Catalogue, handling of books etc. All joined the Library and took away a book to read.
- Sept 23rd Evening at 8 pm. Meeting of Parent-Teacher Association to welcome parents of newly admitted to school. I gave an address on 'The aims of Parkway School'. After the meeting Mr Welsh gave a demonstration to the committee on the filmstrip projector.
- Oct 7th AGM of PTA. 140 present. Secretary reported that number of parent members had trebled since last year.
- Feb 3rd 1947 PTA Filmshows:
'Lesson in Living' (Canada)
'A Better Tomorrow' (USA)
'Soviet Schoolchild' (USSR)
- Feb 11th The daughter of the Chinese Ambassador visited the school.
- March 4th George Thomas MP 'Parliament and Education' PTA.
- March 24th W.S. Birkett HMI 'Visual Aids in Education' PTA.
- April 21st 617 children on roll.
- July 15th A party of older boys left for the County Camp at Cuffley.

July 22nd Boys returned from Camp and 25 girls left for Camp.

Sept 8th Roll 591.

Jan 12th 1948 Roll 626.

April 12th Roll 674.

Sept 6th Roll 676.

1949 Roll 695. Twenty children admitted. The restriction of admissions to children from this part of the town has now become necessary and is agreed by the managers.

Sept 5th Roll 706. The complete school is as follows: main building, eleven classes; Drill Hall 2, Friends' Meeting House 2, Girl Guide Hut 1, St Francis Hall 1, Free Church 2, Baptist Church 2. (21 classes)

Jan 9th 1950 Roll 722.

Jan 12th Inaugural meeting of PTA working party to make apparatus. A number of mothers and fathers took home wood and designs supplied for making apparatus.

April 25th Number on roll 752. Attendance 92.8%. Number admitted 27. In order to admit these children and on the assumption that Templewood School would open on June 5th, classes 1b and 1c had been combined.....I learnt that this arrangement would have to continue until July. This is most unsatisfactory but cannot be avoided except by excluding children from school.

July 12th School sports. A record crowd of at least 800 watched this event.

July 28th Various teachers leave for Templewood. Closed seven outside classes and checked stock brought to school..... Closed school for summer holidays. 250-300 children leave.

Sept 11th Roll 480. Friends' Meeting House, Marsden Room and Baptist Primary Room still in use.

Here are some other memories bridging Miss Coe's and Mr Worthy's headships:

* * *

Percy Crow

We first knew the school in 1943. Miss Coe was the formidable head who had the reputation of obtaining more scholarship places to WGC Grammar School than any other primary school in the town. At that time Parent-Teacher Associations were beginning to be talked of and she accepted this idea reluctantly: but when a PTA was formed we were kept on a very tight rein and our activities were steered firmly in the direction that she considered would not interfere in any way with the running of the school (all parents had to wait for children at the school gates). Our standing went up however when she discovered that one of our members could, by using the PTA banner, provide a supply, off-ration, of rope-soled shoes for the children. This allowed her to insist that no outdoor shoes were worn in school and thus the beautiful polished surface of the corridors was protected!

When I took my first child (Tim) to the school in September 1943, we were shown into the presence of the headmistress; we received not a glimmer of welcome for all she was concerned with was whether we had his birth certificate. It was very different when I went on with him to the Reception Class where there was a young teacher who immediately made us feel that someone really cared and before long Tim was in the capable hands of a very sympathetic and understanding teacher - Betty Matthews.

I am not sure who was on the PTA Committee at this time. I think I was a founder member with Dr Wrigley, Mr Hunt and Mrs Dorothy Smith.

What a relief when Arthur Worthy took over. He threw open the windows and let in the fresh air. He loved children and he knew how to talk to and secure cooperation from parents. The school became full of all sorts of activities and he was a very busy man; one day however he met a parent with a problem at one end of Parkway. She had a toddler with her who could just walk and he walked the whole length of Parkway holding the toddler by the hand whilst he discussed the problem - that was the sort of man he was.

He thought of the PTA as a major asset to the school and of course parents were welcome to come into school at any time. The PTA flourished and it was left almost entirely to the parents to run it. We had talks on education (we were especially concerned with the early workings of the 1944 Education Act), on health and other topics; we had social evenings; we set to and built a sandpit for the school; we raised funds to buy a film-strip projector (an aid to education which the County Council would not afford); we even managed to put an 'unofficial' pedestrian crossing for the children over Parkway.

Under Worthy, Parkway really became a child-centred community where parents and teachers cooperated in their common interest - the welfare of the children.

Percy Crow
Aldbury, Tring



Selwyn Owen

Mr Owen taught at Parkway School from 1938-1949, when he left to take up a headship. During his later years at the school he was Mr Worthy's Deputy Head. He is now retired, and still lives in Welwyn Garden City.

He has a fund of memories about the school. He was the first man to become a teacher there, after four years teaching in Ramsgate. Shortly after arriving he enquired about joining the local branch of the National Union of Teachers. Miss Coe had quarrelled with the local branch and had joined the St Albans Association; and staff at Peartree and Ludwick Schools had gone over to the Hertford Association. He realised early that Welwyn Garden was a town of strong personalities.

He remembers the fire in 1939. The culprit was caught by chance by the police some months later. Two policemen noticed a boy acting suspiciously at a factory in the Bridge Road area. They chased him, but he was too quick for them - only to run into another policeman on the Handside playing field, who arrested him! He confessed to the Parkway fire, and to some other acts of arson in the town. He was sent to Borstal, but the Borstal was closed early on in the war, and it is not known whether he served his full sentence.

While plans for the rebuilt school were being made, Mr Owen made the point that there had been too little space for art work in the old school. So the classroom at the northern end of the school was extended. This room is now used by the top infants.

Miss Coe, he says, was rather a 'Jekyll and Hyde' character. Very strict at school, she was a marvellous hostess at home, and a bridge fiend! She used to invite the best bridge players to play at her house - which was somewhat embarrassing as she played so badly herself!

While the unexploded bombs dropped outside the school were being defused and removed in October 1940, the school was closed, but it still took responsibility for those children whose mothers were involved in war work. On one of these days, Mr Owen took a small party of children to do nature work in Sherrardswood. On the way back, some of them left the party to go home, and so only about half a dozen were still with him as he walked down Parkway towards the school. Suddenly a German plane zoomed low towards them, firing its machine guns towards the ground. 'Duck, duck, get down!' he shouted at the children - but they had scattered under the hedges before he could speak! Fortunately the machine gun fire fell well away from them, and the plane eventually came down on the other side of town.

Like Sheila Hunt (Benson), Mr Owen remembers how the Crown Film Unit upset the normal routine of the school while making 'Home and School' in 1946. The day in December when they came to look at a PT lesson with a view to filming it was cold and miserable. The children shivered in their shorts while the lady from the film unit was wrapped in a lovely big fur coat!

All this time the school was scattered between the school buildings, the Drill Hall, St Francis Hall, the Friends' Meeting House, the Baptist Church, the Free Church and Lawrence Hall. Mr Worthy got about between classes in his car - Mr Owen rode a bicycle. All the children went to Trevelyn House for their dinners, whatever the weather. On wet days, the smell of wet clothing combined with school dinner cabbage was impossible to forget!

Mr Worthy was a man with terrific energy. Mr Owen remembers him rushing through the school over two or three days, full of ideas, inspiring teachers and encouraging children. Then for several days nothing would be seen of him - he would be sitting in his room, chain smoking. Another complex character.



Peter Wright

I attended Parkway from 1942 to 1948. I joined the Reception Class at 5+ and left after taking the 11+ examination (which I passed) to go to WGC Grammar School. I saw two completely different styles of headship!

Firstly the headmistress - MISS COE.

She was a stickler for discipline. She had a deep voice and being small framed the effect of her shouting the full length of the corridors was electrifying, terrifying and rather daunting to the likes of us small receptioners. She believed in straight lines and children marching smartly and in silence between lessons keeping in single file and to the left. Corridor floors were spotless (you could see your face in them). In fact they were so polished that a class mate of mine slipped and broke her leg. She walked with a limp ever after. I was never taught by Miss Coe, but have hazy recollections of assembly - hymn singing with the piano and staff present, making it a very formal occasion first thing in the morning.

The reason I went to Parkway was because my parents believed quite correctly that Miss Coe's strict method of running the school produced better 11+ results than the alternative infant/primary school at Peartree. I lived close to Peartree on the other side of the line from Parkway and it was practically unknown for children to go to school other than to their local primary. Dad did have a bit of sway in the town so somehow he managed to get me a place at Parkway. It was quite a long way to walk each day being over a mile, especially as I went home to lunch.

Secondly the headmaster - MR WORTHY.

He was the opposite of Miss Coe - kind, approachable and always joined in the playground fun, sliding on the slides in winter and taking all that came in the snowball fights. I can remember his rosy cheeks and grin as he would pick out an individual and ram snow down his neck!

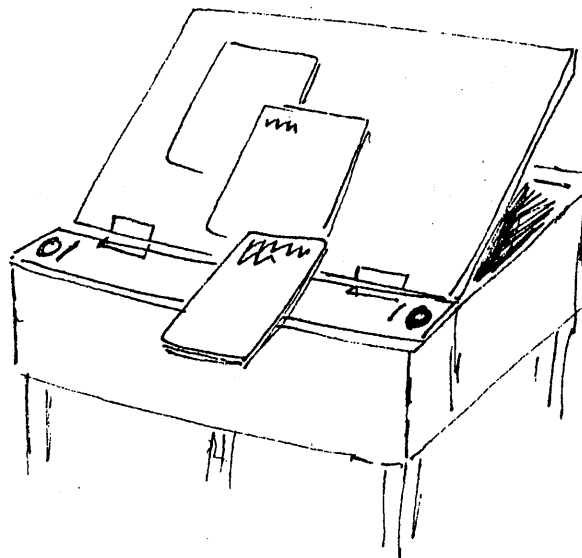
The atmosphere in the school changed drastically when Mr Worthy took over. This was coupled with a general redecoration in brighter colours. So the whole place became a happier friendly school with much more laughter and gaiety, especially from the staff.

THE SCHOOL

Reception Class was at the south end of the building. Top classes 4A and 4B were at the north end and you gradually worked up the school year by year, changing to a new classroom each year.

Every classroom had the same style of furniture except the two top classrooms. Desks were double, constructed with a cast iron frame with a double bench seat and two desk tops.

The lids of the desks opened, being hinged at the back they lifted up so that books slid off over the front. You kept your books (which were issued yearly) in the space below along with your pencil box, ruler and set-square. On the fixed part of the desk across the front there were two grooves one each side and two circular holes. Ink wells, china I think, with blue wet ink were loosely slotted into the holes. Everyone used nibbed pens which had to be dipped into the ink when the ink on the pen was used up, which was frequently.



During the period I was at the school Hertfordshire introduced a new style of writing and special lined books to write in. It was called Marion Richardson Style, and we had special new nibs with blunt ends so that we could form the letters correctly:

Parkway School

We were all very excited about it at the time. In fact the school ran a competition and the best writers were sent to the school's camp at Cuffley for a week. I was one of the lucky ones - I think my writing must have degenerated!

The top classrooms each had eight oblong tables on which sat six pupils. Each pupil had a separate chair and drawer. The tables were always full - so this makes a class size of forty-eight.

In the top form the tables were numbered 1, 2, 3, etc, 1 being the top table where the bright children sat and so on down the tables to 8. There were weekly tests (or maybe monthly) and you moved your position on the tables according to your results. I always moved around table 2 or 3.

All the classrooms had blackboards on easels with chalk that used to rest on a ledge in the easel. When I was at the top end of the school the top classes got special boards fixed against the wall which rolled up and down. They also introduced a new chalk with a yellow waxy covering which reduced the chalk dust floating around.

The toilets were primitive by today's standards. A cottage-latched door allowed entry from the school. A similar one from the yard. The WCs had three-quarter doors, and, yes, there was writing on the wall. Even in 1942 there was writing on the wall. Mind you, we never saw the culprit again. The toilets had no heating and were bitterly cold in winter - I never did understand how the pipes did not freeze. They were always clean like the rest of the school.

PLAYTIMES

Two breaks were the norm, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. On dry days we were allowed to play on the school field which was grassed. We played games like 'He' and 'Grandmother's Footsteps'. There was a lot of skipping by the girls, and when long skipping ropes came in the boys used to join in.

Wet weather and snow were different. I shall remember always the smell of wet clothing in the cloakrooms. We were always encouraged to go out even in the worst of weather.

SPECIAL DAYS

Sports Day was an event which was eagerly awaited. There was much practising of races. The little ones competed in sack and egg-and-spoon races. The older children competed in events such as 40 yards, 60 yards, 80 yards, 100 yards races, cricket ball throwing, high jump and long jump.

The school was split into four houses - St David's, St George's, St Andrew's and St Patrick's. All pupils had black shorts with a stripe of coloured tape down each side, yellow, red, blue or green. Every pupil had to take part and points were awarded for places. A running total was kept during the day on a blackboard outside of the aggregated house points. There was great rivalry. The parents attended the afternoon and used to cheer with the rest of us.

May Day was a day to be remembered by all. Lots of dancing practise in the hall and then outside with the maypole. The patterns we used were quite pretty. There were always four heavy boys sitting round the foot of the pole to ensure that it did not tip over. A girl called Jenny Wren pulled her tape so hard one year that it broke, but we continued dancing.



The school had a choir of boys and girls, mainly older children. We practised regularly, and competed in local inter school competitions.

SCHOOL CAMP

Each year the two top forms went to the Hertfordshire Camp at Cuffley. I went twice, once when I won the writing competition and again when I was in the fourth year. Camp lasted about a week and really was a continuation of school. We slept in large bell tents with about eight in each tent. Two members of staff, one male and one female, always came, and Mr Worthy used to visit. There were large marquees which were used as classrooms with long tables and benches. We did a lot of nature study - drawing flowers, seeds and trees. Communal washing, communal eating and very little sleep. I always remember on our return from one of the camps Mr Worthy lined us all up against the wall in the hall and called the rest of the school in to see the return of the dirty horrors. We hadn't washed much during the week, so we must have been filthy! They all had a jolly good laugh. That was the sort of man he was - no malice, just good fun.

Peter Wright
Chobham

Parkway 1942 - 1948 Joe Cann

I went back once - I suppose about 15 or so - and it all seemed so small. Those towering corridors and classrooms - the green glazed tiling at head level or beyond - all now quite insignificant - cramped even. What happened to the maypole?* Sawn up by Mr Worthy and cast on a bonfire? It was quite different with Miss Coe. Maypoles came in, I suppose, with the olde English straws in hair and sandals movement of the twenties - and when I was at Parkway there were still some of the leaders of that movement in the Garden City - gumbooters they were called even though they felt sandals were more healthy. Maypoles look fine in theory - you skip round and round as the cheery piano plays and weave the brightly coloured ribbons into a pattern, and then you skip round and round in reverse and undo it all again. Then you make a different (and more complicated) pattern and undo that, and so on. The trouble for us seven year olds was that one mistake - only one - and the whole thing went into a terrible tangle, the cheery piano stopped and you had to walk it all undone while the proud parents waited impatiently. And of course there was Miss Coe - a figure of terror for us 'Wooden!!!' she would cry, 'You're just wooden!!' and rap us on the heads when we made a mistake.

Sometimes I'm pretty sure memory must play me false. Did we really practise sheltering under the desks when there was an air raid? What good could that possibly have done? But I'm sure that we did. Did Mrs Mein always play 'Country Gardens' as we marched out of assembly? Here I think that she probably didn't, but when she did it was with such conviction that all those other times were forgotten. Other memories are just fragments - scoring my first goal in football and being congratulated by our champion athlete Bobby Bonner; watching chiff chaffs on a nature walk with Mr Duckering; hanging my coat (when very small) on a peg with a picture of a boat by it, and, nearly most painful of all, trying desperately to button up my button shoes, with tiny hard buttons that would not go through the hole in the strap - how much better when I graduated to sandals.

Worst, though, was my very first day. I had somehow got the idea that you just went to school in the mornings and came home in the afternoon. The other children in the class said no, but I didn't believe them. Then my mother said at lunch time I had to go back and I remember a very tearful argument on the back step before I agreed after all to give it a try. But on the whole it was pretty good, even though I preferred using cotton reels to make tanks with (using a match and an elastic band) rather than to make long snakes of French knitting.

Joe Cann
Welwyn Garden City

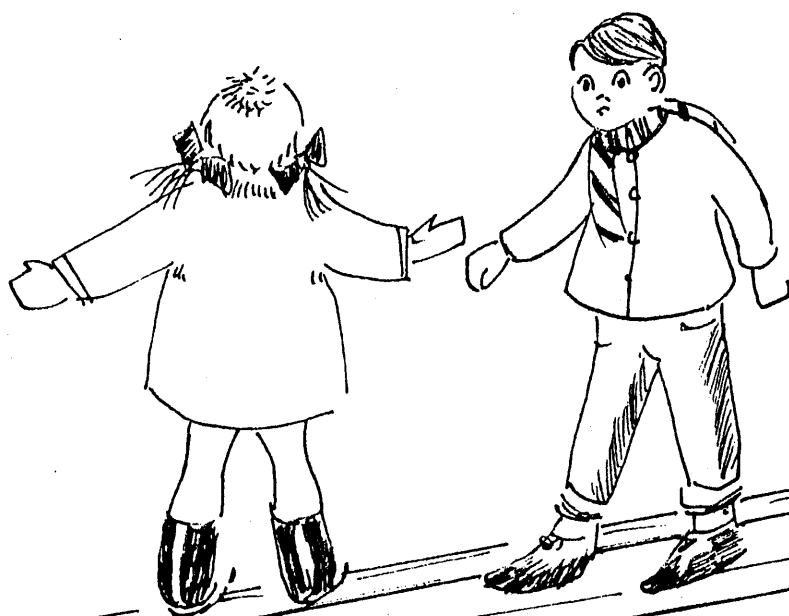
*The maypole is still used every year by the infants at their May Festival

Further Memories of Parkway School Under Mr Worthy
John Cole (optician in Howardsgate 1939 - 1969)

As parents of a Parkway pupil - now terribly ancient! - we can tell you what an outstanding head Arthur Worthy was. He had an incredible understanding of children, as is instanced by one little episode. During a frost ridden period one winter, the children made a slide down the entrance path to the school and on to the pavement. He did not prohibit this, but during an assembly gave a talk on how to make a slide, explaining that the building was warm and melted the slide. It would, therefore, last longer if the slide were made at the end of the playground!

He created a marvellous school.

John Cole
Hern Bay



Vivien Wright (Cole)

(daughter of the last contributor and wife of Peter Wright)

I attended Parkway from the age of 8, starting in 1946 after the arrival of Mr Worthy as headmaster. I had previously attended Sherrardswood School where I was not happy. I remember arriving in 2a, with Mr Duckering, a young and very gifted teacher and I knew, as soon as I entered the classroom, that this method of education would be right for me! Such was the popularity of Mr Duckering with us as a class that we wrote a petition to Mr Worthy begging to have Mr Duckering as our class 3a teacher also. I am pleased to say we got our way! Our 4th and final year was spent with Mr Owen who, I believe, was a member of a large Welsh choir. I remember we sang his favourite hymn 'The Day Thou Gavest' at his request on the day he left and we were appalled to see him cry. Our school used to enter many music competitions, with choir, recorder and percussion groups, under the auspices of Mrs Mein. We had much success and I can remember most of the songs to this day! Mrs Mein used to play the same march each morning for us to leave assembly and we all used to turn in our lines and march on the spot until it was our turn to lead out.

Besides the musical competitions, we used to take part in maypole and country dancing displays at a large fete at a house with a paddock in High Oaks Road.

In our final year at Parkway, Mr Owen used to set monthly tests in English, arithmetic and VR and depending upon the resulting marks we used to move our places up or down to different tables. We had eight tables, six children to each. I was nearly always on table two. I am now a teacher myself and sometimes wonder how this system of putting children in their academic places would go down with the HMI of today. It certainly kept us on our toes and oh, the shame if you dropped to a lower table!

Another of my recollections is that of an eccentric old man called 'Cari' who used to sell balloons and cheap toys outside the school. At the end of term he would show us 'Lassie' films, silent ones, for a small fee in the school hall.

School dinners were not happy. We used to walk to Trevelyan House in Church Road in a crocodile, past the Convent. It was a daily tradition to shout obscenities and hiss at the catholic girls and for them to do the same back. The dinners were awful - semolina and 'belly-ache jam' (bright orange and oh so sharp!) was one of the most hated puddings.

I do remember my junior school days as being immensely happy, interesting and orderly. The staff were kind and strict. Ours was a forward looking school, the work of increasing importance. I believe Northamptonshire county in this field.

Sivien Wright
Chobham

* * *

Parkway J.M.I. School 1951 - 1953

It was in 1951 I was appointed secretary of Parkway School, doing about 12 hours officially per week, at 2/6d. an hour. One never kept to these hours because the job was so enjoyable.

At this time it was a primary school full to capacity. The late Mr A. Worthby was headmaster. Excellent, he knew every child and parent by name. This made a wonderful tie between head and parents.

There were no meals served in school. Each day the children lined up to go to the Revelyan House, Church Road, for their meals - I think it was. They had to go whatever the weather.

The teaching was of a very high standard. Teachers were kept on their toes by the head, he always seemed to know exactly what was going on in each classroom. One of the things I admired so much, he would always give praise where it was due - so everyone always did their best for him; he was strict but very fair in every way.

It is difficult to remember details. One outstanding success each year was the 11+ results. I must add the parents were so interested in their children's education they did much to bring about these results.

The PTA was very flourishing, so many things going on during term time, parents were so willing to help in so many ways.

In those days 'open day' activities were in the school quadrangle. I can remember looking down from above seeing the children singing and dancing taught by the darling of the school, the late Mrs Jeanne Mein. She loved her job.

The saddest day of the year for me was when the top class left in July to go to senior schools. One got so attached to them over the years, also their parents.

Towards the end of Parkway School primary stage, it became overcrowded. This was known as the 'bulge'. So in 1953 the juniors moved to Applecroft School, which had been known as Handside School. Our roll at Applecroft went up to 600.

Miss Spain was appointed headmistress of Parkway Infants School. I was secretary to both for a while until it became impossible to cope with both.

They were very happy years!!

Rene Kerrison (Mrs)
Welwyn Garden City



The school had the advantage of a gymnasium with ropes and other equipment which would not usually have been provided for 5-7 year olds. (See page 44)

VI MISS SPAIN AND MISS MARTIN

In July 1953, Mr Worthy makes his last entry in the Parkway Log Book:

Parkway J.M.I. School closed.
Reopening in September as Parkway
Infants' School, Headmistress
Miss V. Spain. Junior School opening
at Handside School as Applecroft J.M.
School. All junior property removed
to school hall ready for transfer.
Out classes closed and belongings
brought to school.

Sept 14th 186 Parkway children; 6 permanent
staff.

Sept 6th 1954 Roll 257.

After this, there are no other noteworthy entries in the Log Book. Our next contributor arrived in the Garden City just as these changes were taking place at Parkway School.

* * *

Parkway School 1952 - 1953

Big changes were taking place at Parkway School in Spring 1952. The first of the 'New Town' houses had just been completed in south Parkway and, with the 'bulge' in the birthrate and the new occupants, the school was crammed full with children from 5-11 years old. We arrived in Welwyn Garden City in May and, although my 5 year old had not been able to start school in Hampstead because of overcrowding, Mr Worthy, the headmaster at Parkway, immediately welcomed him, saying 'Send him along as soon as you arrive and he will soon make friends with his new neighbours'.

At this time the children had to walk in pairs to a canteen in Church Road for lunch. They were allowed to take 'Dinky' toy cars to use at play time and these were great favourites with the boys.

When the autumn term started the 7-11 year old children moved, with Mr Worthy, to Applecroft School, (this had previously been a Secondary School and those children moved to Howard School), while Parkway became an Infant School with Miss Matthews as temporary head. The school had the advantage of a gymnasium with ropes and other equipment which would not usually have been provided for 5-7 year olds. The children enjoyed the extra space in the playground; marbles and cowboys and indians were the boys' favourite games.

Most of the boys wore school ties - brown with a narrow diagonal gold stripe - and in the summer the majority of boys and girls wore brown blazers with PPS (Parkway Primary School) embroidered in gold on the breast pocket.

In 1953 there was the excitement of the Coronation. Each child was given a medal and a pair of socks in red, white and blue; later they were taken to the cinema to see the film of the Coronation.

There was the Sports Day on the school field, the Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas, and the nativity play. Miss Spain was appointed as headmistress, to be followed soon afterwards by Miss Martin - every child's idea of a favourite aunt.

Phyllis Heath-Brown
Welwyn Garden City

* * *

1954

Yards of gleaming parquet floor along the corridor, trailing plants on every window-sill and a very polite, well spoken child ushering me into the staff-room, this was my first impression of Parkway School when I arrived for my interview.

Through the window I could see oceans of beautiful green grass beyond the playground. Could this be another planet? The little church school I taught in had its buildings condemned as unsuitable just after the First World War and had at one time been inspected by Matthew Arnold, coal fires and gas lights were still in use and the nearest playing field was ten minutes walk away. To me one of the older school in Welwyn Garden seemed amazingly clean and brand new.

Betty Guinery
Welwyn Garden City

* * *

Mrs Daniels

Mrs Frances Daniels has had a long association with Parkway School. Her three sons (the eldest is now fifty) all attended the school when Miss Coe was headmistress and her grand-daughter only left two years ago. But it is as a teacher at the school she is best remembered. She taught at the school from 1956 - 1963 and was appointed deputy head in 1959. Her memories of the school under Miss Martin are extremely happy. She remembers it as one of the happiest schools she had taught in. Everyone in the school - teachers, children and kitchen staff were like one happy family.

Miss Martin expected high standards of work and behaviour from the children and achieved this by creating a happy, comfortable atmosphere. Special occasions like Harvest Festival, the Christmas Concert and the May Festival were held then, as they are now. One of Mrs Daniels' strongest memories is of walking up Barleycroft Road with the top class when they were going to visit Applecroft School before 'going up' the following term - not that much has changed!

Frances Daniels
Welwyn Garden City

* * *

Recollections of a Lollipop Lady

In 1961, relatively newly come to Welwyn Garden City, our youngest child, a son, entered Parkway School. Our previous experience of school had been in a country area where the initials PTA were unknown and meaningless. It was with interest therefore that I attended first of such meetings at Parkway, and listened to the discussion of many relevant matters. So, towards the end of the meeting I felt encouraged to enquire whether a crossing patrol had ever been considered for the hazardous main road outside?

A subcommittee, much correspondence, and a year later, the Council and the police approved and passed our application. An advertisement was placed in the Welwyn Times to invite an interested person to apply.

It was by then the historic winter of 1962-63. My son was exhausted with his daily trip to school along the 'Alps' - the mountains of snow lining each pathway where the snow ploughs had pushed the results of their labour. OAP's and others were understandably less enthusiastic about standing exposed to such conditions four times a day. We had no applications as all for the post of crossing patrol. The fruits of our long struggle were in danger of withering unsampled.

I approached Miss Martin, the dear headmistress, and offered to take on the job for the time being. And was accepted.

The County supplied me with a vast white macintosh, a cap of similar proportions - and my 'lollipop'. Under my mac I put on all available layers of warm clothing, producing a shape I was amazed the children recognised as human! But I, a chilly mortal at the best of times, survived that winter; and grew to love my job.

The children, seen in so many varied states of mind - running excitedly up with a latest treasure to show teacher - and me; coming weeping in the morning, and going cheerily home at the end of the day. And vice versa.

There was one dear little boy who with pride showed me a badge on his chest labelled to my mild surprise, 'LOO'. 'Yee-e-e-s', I said cautiously, 'but why?' Gazing from above down his own chest '007', he said, 'to go with my James Bond car'! If course.



Then there was the kind elderly gentleman who lived opposite, and livened many a dull moment of waiting. The only slight snag being that he liked to conduct conversations in full frontal address, which was not always to my liking. So I would take a step or two to one side, to angle us, and he would follow, to counteract my move. It became quite a graceful dance in time. A dear man he was, prone to such waggish remarks as, 'I saw you this morning chatting with the father of three of your children'!

There was a lovely occasion one autumn when a circus came to town, and arranged a parade from the station, down Parkway to what is now the sailing lake area. So, at back-to-school-after-lunchtime, along came the procession when all the children were in the playing field and, among other delights, a trio of elephants lined up to greet them through the railings - an intriguing reversal of the usual situation at a zoo. As I watched from the opposite side of the road I was fascinated to see in the clear frosty air a succession of 'smoke rings', perfect in formation, float from the back-view of the elephants. The next moment, two large footballs were deposited on the grass of Parkway. (This is said to account for the splendour of those particular horse chestnut trees). The children were loudly and deliciously scandalised. But they hadn't had the moment of magic I had witnessed from my side of the road!

As Christmas came round each year I was the happy recipient of many touching cards and letters, and even presents of most varied kinds. A space rocket made from a loo roll, a paper Christmas tree with crayonned candles, and a long-treasured red woolly scarf bearing a label inscribed in laborious youthful letters 'To keep yuo warm'. 'Yuo' was a feature of my life for several years. 'I'm going to the cupboard, do you want yuo?' my daughters would call.

The Queen came down Parkway, which was lined with children, on her way to open the then new hospital. It was my regret that she came during school-working hours so I could not legitimately step into the road with my lollipop and hold up the royal car!

At last, after four years, I heard that Applecroft had an attractive position, for which I was accepted. So with very mixed feelings I resigned from my happy if constraining days of duty at Parkway.

Mirs Beinder organised a farewell I shall never forget - and I yet have an enormous card signed by every child in the school. And some quite unjustifiably lovely presents from generous parents.

Greta Plowman
Welwyn Garden City

Miss Martin

I have many happy memories of my years at Parkway. I joined the staff in 1956 and left in 1965, family problems and the lure of opening a new modern school were the only reasons for my resignation.

There were problems at Parkway, the rooms were very small (for 40 children) and there were no modern amenities. These disadvantages did not weigh very heavily when we realised the happy and purposeful atmosphere in which we worked.

I enjoyed the generous and willing co-operation of staff and parents. At my previous schools we had had very good parent-teacher relationships but no formal PTA. So - I wondered. But I need not have been concerned; at the very first PTA meeting I felt at home. The teachers had suffered two changes of headship in a few years - but withstood the shock valiantly.

The usual activities, outside the curriculum (but important to it) were all carried out; Christmas festivities, Harvest Festival, concerts, Parents' evenings, to which everybody including children, staff and parents contributed.

I feel that the outstanding highlight, was the building of the swimming pool. I learned to swim in my early teens (and still swim once a week) and have always been keen that children should have an opportunity early in life. All the children enjoyed the pool and as the shallow end was less than 12" deep the most nervous were reassured.

The PTA Committee undertook the planning, the finance and the actual physical building, using (I believe) entirely voluntary labour. What a pity I had to leave it behind when I left!

One amusing memory. At assembly early in the Autumn Term I announced the morning hymn and said 'the little ones won't know this - so you older ones must sing well'. A little boy in the front row - only in school under a week said 'Why do you call us little? I'm five'. A hasty apology from the head, 'I meant to say New Ones'.

Parkway has always had an affectionate place in my memories. I hope that the 50th Anniversary will result in many happy reunions. May Parkway go on from strength to strength towards its 100th Anniversary.

A. B. Martin
Hoddeson

VII MRS BEINDER

Parkway has spent thirty of its fifty years as an Infant School - and for the greater part of that time Mrs Beinder has been the head. Under her the school has moved with the times, but has always provided an environment where children can learn happily and with growing confidence during their crucial first three years at school. I think the Hudson family's contribution - in spite of the boys' laconic remarks - is quite a tribute to Mrs Beinder and the school she runs.

* * *

The Hudson Family's Memories of Parkway School

One of the features of the Hudson family that is well known to many residents in Welwyn Garden City is that it is composed of five people: the mother and father, Carol and John, and the three children, Miles, Jonathan and Jenifer. What is not so well known is that all five attended Parkway School. This is not a piece of information so earth shattering that it should go in the Guinness Book of Records but to us it is a rather nice and unusual family-unifying fact: we all went to the same primary school. Our memories of the school are all different and the highlights are listed below.

To the youngest member of the family, Jenifer, I asked about her memories of the school.

Daddy: What do you remember especially about Parkway?

Jenifer: The meals.

Daddy: What about them?

Jenifer: They were disgusting.

(If any dinner ladies are reading this, I'm sure my daughter didn't really mean this!)

Daddy: Well, do you remember anything nice?

Jenifer: Yes, maths.

Daddy: Who was the nicest teacher?

Jenifer: Mrs Beinder.

Daddy: What was nice about her?

Jenifer: She taught maths.

(Mrs Beinder should feel a rosy glow at this point)

Jenny is now seven and has just left Parkway; she should have remembered more.

The next oldest is Jonathan, now nine, who left Parkway two years ago. He might have remembered more except that he is a left-handed poet who is usually thinking of something else, so I didn't manage to extract a flood of memories from him.

Daddy: Do you remember anything about Parkway School?

Jonathan: No.

Daddy? Why not?

Jonathan: Because nothing eventful happened while I was there.

Jonathan's mother assures me that this just isn't true. In fact he does remember his very first day at the school which was 16th April and his birthday. Miss Woodruff brought down a plaster birthday cake specially kept for such occasions.

Passing through time more rapidly now we come to Miles who is fifteen and at St Albans School. His brief stream of conscious memories are as follows:

Daddy: Do you remember anything about Parkway School?

Miles: Yes. I remember it was square. One day it was all snowy and we slid on the ice. I remember trying to touch the bottom of the deepest part of the swimming pool; the shallowest part only came up to my knees. When I left I realised how small the chairs were. I remember not knowing what coleslaw was called and being forced to have it because I didn't know what to say I didn't want. I was in classes 7, 4, 2 and 1. I was given a sweet on my birthday. I remember the boredom of singing in assembly.

Making a major leap through time now we pass to September 1945 when Carol started at Parkway. Carol remembers naps on oval straw mats, tobacco tins with words and pictures to be matched together. She remembers a year at the Baptist Hall and a year at the Friends' Meeting House. She remembers freezing outside drinking milk, sliding on ice puddles in leather shoes, playing shops along the corridor and summertime stories under the chestnut tree. She remembers walking along Parkway to Trevelyan House for dinner and shouting rude things at the girls in the Convent School on the way.

At the same time as this John was also at Parkway School. It would be nice to say that Carol and I were not high school sweethearts but primary school sweethearts, but unfortunately we don't remember much of each other then! I remember particularly class 4a1, the last year at Parkway. The sitting positions in the class were arranged in order of academic merit and I was on Table 3. I remember David Bickley and John Howe on Table 1 drawing pictures of World War II aerial dogfights. Oh, how I wanted to be on Table 1!

I remember the teacher, Miss Matthews, and that she sent back a parcel of stones, feathers and leaves from a holiday she was on in the Lake District. I was the one to open the parcel. I also remember going to Trevelyan House for lunch, along Parkway and back along Longcroft Lane. While playing cracks and drains one day on the way back I gouged me knee heavily on a gritty driveway and had to go to the Cottage Hospital for treatment. The scar is still clearly visible to this day. I remember sitting cross-legged in front of the blackboard learning about square roots. I remember Wendy Richards falling off her bike just outside the school. And then the images drift into memories of memories - happy memories.

Parkway School has been good to our family. It has been a particularly good school academically, not only in the forties for Carol and myself but also for our children. I was amazed that Parkway School taught Miles to read in just one year. Certainly for me the three Rs and the competitive academic spirit were fostered in Parkway School. All of us remember the school fondly. We all have happy memories. We all learnt to read, 'rite and do 'rithmetic there. We learnt to relate to our fellow human beings there. We learnt some discipline, some social graces and we had a happy time. We all appreciate learning and its ramifications. We were lucky to live in a town near a school where such excellent early input was available. The influence of Parkway School will remain with all of us.

J. A. Hudson
Welwyn Garden City

* * *

Mrs Beinder

My first visit to Parkway School was in 1965 as the newly appointed headmistress. The building was modest in appearance and surrounded by lots of trees. I liked it. Now, in its Jubilee Year, it is still in the same lovely setting but sadly, not for much longer. On that first occasion the children had all gone home but I was soon to meet them and when I did every nook and cranny in the school seemed to be filled with children.

I was a little surprised to find that enormous respect was paid to the corridor floors. Shoes had to be removed in the cloakrooms and slippers donned so that the floors would not suffer. This rule was soon relaxed as the need for growing feet to wear supporting shoes seemed to me of paramount importance. The floors have proved their first class quality by still looking good after withstanding the tread of hundreds of shoes and sometimes of even greater indignities.

My office is in a splendid situation for seeing the children at play. In summer the big field is a lovely sight with groups of children making moving splashes of colour all over it. The children love to come up to my room and look out of the windows to see their friends playing. As they watch they become involved and speak their thoughts out loud.

One very severe winter when the playground was covered in deep snow, the caretaker cleared a narrow path for the children round three sides of the school. To do this he had to pile up the snow as he went. The children were delighted. They emerged from school carrying their usual vast quantities of paraphernalia and struggled up and down each snow hill in turn, carefully avoiding any contact with the cleared path.

Our playground has its faults - after torrential rain lakes appear everywhere. The children regard these as extra perks and take the longest way round to the school gate in order to paddle through as many pools as possible. May their long suffering parents forgive them!

Parents have always contributed generously to our school funds but through the years they have become increasingly involved with the daily life of the school. Some years ago, in response to my plea for helping hands many parents came into school most willingly and gave voluntary help. As families have moved on parents of new children have replaced those leaving and the help has remained constant. This help is of the greatest value to us in school and the volunteers in turn discover the joys of working in a children's world.

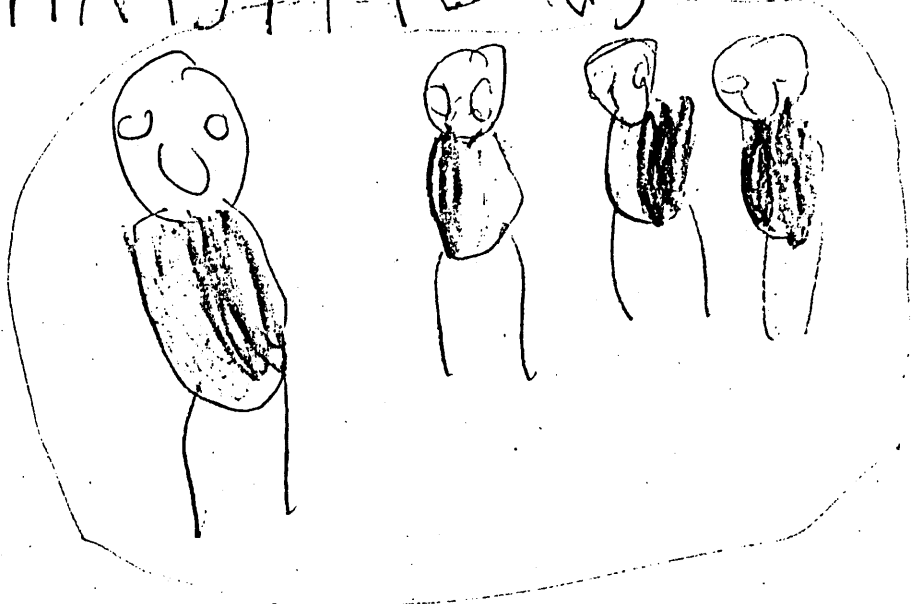
These are the words I would choose to describe Parkway - a children's world - a place where children can explore, develop and learn in a happy atmosphere shared with their friends and parents and teachers.

In a few years time Parkway School will move to new quarters on a different site but I hope that it will always remain in essence as it is now in its Jubilee Year - a children's world.

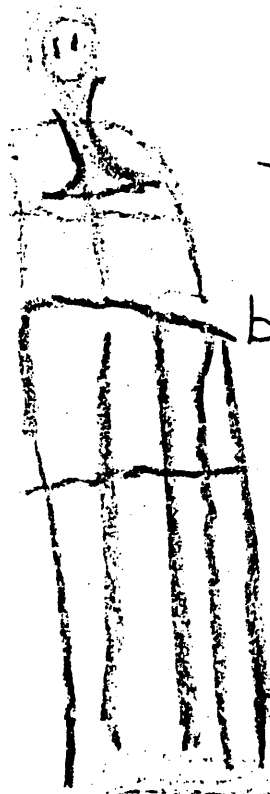
Parkway Today

The children must have the last word about Parkway School. On the following pages are pieces written by recent pupils (now at Applecroft Junior School) and by members of last year's reception class.

I like to play outside play in
with my friends



S 9/18



I like park way
because I like the apparatus

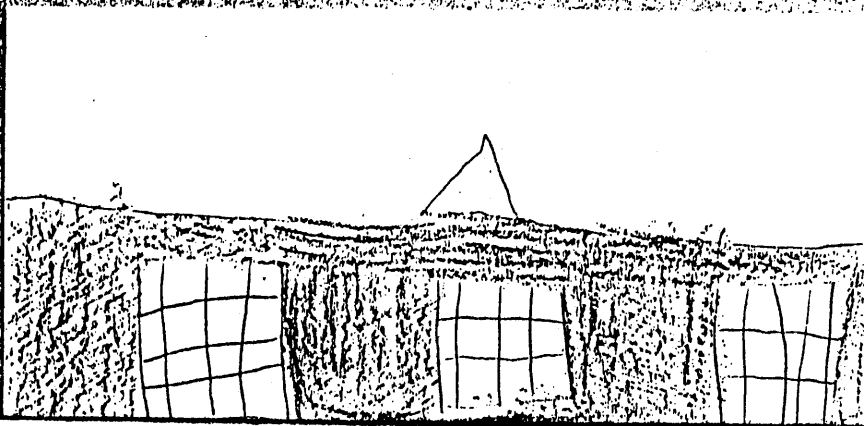


EMMAN.

my school
my school has
been up for 50 years
and its its 50th
anniversary and Zoes
mummy is making
a book about
our school. my
school has a television.
Some number games.
and we have school
rules No toys
No sweets. No fighting
No running in school.

my school has a
swimming pool.

Graham.



Mrs Withers is our School Secretary.

Mrs Withers only works in the morning. She types the hymns and prayers and letters that we take home. She said that there were 131 children in our school. I think she has to work very hard.

Mrs Burt is our

lollipop lady

Mrs Burt likes to be lollipop

lady she likes to see them

going home with arms

and legs

Emma

Heather

Mrs. Rice Cook out dinner. she likes Spaghetti Bolognese best.

my best dinner fish fingers and chips.

Richard

Memories of Parkway

I remember that at Parkway Class 1 and Class 2 could read in assembly. When you read for the first time you got up to read and it seems simply a life-time before you have finished. When I was in Mrs Browns class she kept a rota. If it was your turn you went up to Mrs Benders room and you had to make sure you could read it. You went up with some other children so were not on your own. You went into the hall about five minutes before all the other classes came in and Mrs Bender told you when to say your piece. I remember one day Class 3 and Class 4 read in assembly and Mrs Bender had to have the microphone out because some of the childrens voices were not louds enough! Anyway it was fun.

Katie Daniels

Alison
Woodcuff

Parkway

22-6-84

I remember a girl called Debbie Hare and ^{one} day we were on the apparatus. ~~and~~ Suddenly Debbie fell off and landed hard on her bottom and she had to sit on a cushion all week. Another time I remember was when we went swimming. We had just come back from the pool and were getting changed when somebody said that a girl called Jackie Ditzman had lost her knickers. Mrs Povey told her to put her shorts on and she wore them for the rest of the day.