

Woldgate School Alumni

Pocklington and District Local History Group - WOLDGATE SCHOOL HISTORY

We will be trying to fit the history of Woldgate into the context of the development of education nationally since 1945 and locally (the East Riding). We are hoping that the personal accounts and memories that you provide will illustrate these national and county developments on a very local scale.

Name Jackie Hunter

Date Friday, September 25, 2020

Please answer the questions below about your past time at Woldgate School

Date or year you started at Woldgate 1977

Date or year you left Woldgate 1983

My role at Woldgate

Please enter your highlights of your time at Woldgate

Starting at Woldgate was something of a culture shock. Having moved up from Pocklington Junior School, which was a small and very nurturing community where every pupil was known to the others as well as all the teachers, at Woldgate we were suddenly very small fish in a big pond.

A lot of older pupils took pleasure in teasing and sometimes bullying the young ones and there did not seem to be any protection against this from teachers during break times or lunch hours. It was every pupil for themselves.

What I loved about Woldgate was the library, which introduced me to some wonderful fiction outside of our English curriculum. I first read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* there, as well as S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* and other "teenage" novels. It was impressively diverse for a rural state school.

The teachers I remember most are Mrs. Wills and Miss Grice, both passionate advocates of classic fiction who taught me about Shakespeare and the Brontës in their classes. Also the wonderful Melvine Spencer, who instilled a lifelong love of Gerald Durrell's *My Family and Other Animals*, as well as short stories by Doris Lessing. I have never quite recovered from having to read Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*, though, which my oldest friend and O-Level English classmate Ruth Boyes and I can still quote to one another.

I went on to study journalism and that has been my career ever since. Still a voracious reader of fiction and Woldgate played a considerable part in that.