

## 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** Richard Wood

**Date** Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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

**Date or year you started at Woldgate** 1988?

**Date or year you left Woldgate** 1996?

**My role at Woldgate**

Administration Staff

### Please enter your highlights of your time at Woldgate

We moved to Pocklington in 1987 where I was the Police Inspector for the district. Through my work I met with John Brown the Headmaster and other senior school staff. Our two children Robert and Rebecca attended the school which resulted in an approach being made for my appointment as a co-opted Governor which I agreed to. Sometime later there was a vacancy for a parent/governor which I thought I ought to apply for. I remember this was the first time I had put myself forward for an election - I suppose having a high profile job perhaps helped but I remember feeling great relief when I learned I had been successful. We had regular quarterly meetings of which my favourite was the autumn afternoon one - purely as freshly baked scones were served from the canteen! After the evening meetings we would adjourn to the Wellington Oak for well deserved drinks. I served on most of the committees but finance and personnel were the sub-committees I spent the most time on. I remember volumes of paper being regularly received which as a layperson took some digestion and understanding. The school was given devolved budgets and were lucky to have Andrew Hawksworth and Eric Allott and Mike Clowe as Governors who all had financial backgrounds. One year we had sufficient monies to pay for a new music suite to be built and equipped which we were most proud to have achieved. Alas perhaps a couple of years later due to falling pupil numbers we were forced to shed staff.

I remember one particular Sunday morning calling at the school where I found the Deputy Head, Cliff Stubbs, in his office - the office looked as though it had been ransacked so I asked Cliff what had been stolen to which he replied there hadn't been a break-in he was just having a sort out!

The annual sponsored walk was organised by teacher Roy Lane and in those days we managed to muster sufficient Police Officers to supervise the whole school embarking on this huge trek through the Wolds. I don't think Health and Safety regulations would allow this today.

Crime Prevention was an important part of the Policing of the area for which Woldgate School hosted the annual Manton Trophy competition for junior schools. Mr Brown was the Chairman of the Crime Prevention Panel and one year he managed to get all 15 junior schools in the district to take part.

The teachers and staff were first-class which consequently led to the school achieving really impressive results.

I am pleased to have been associated with it albeit in a small way.

