

MEMORIES OF ASHBURY

BY HAZEL HOARE (NéeTILLING) (Recorded Summer 2015)

One of my happiest memories from the infant's class was being taught by a young teacher, who came in for a short term practice teaching placement. She taught us the words, action and tune to "The North Wind Doth Blow". Her name was Sylvia Bunce.

I also remember chanting the times tables every morning in the infants. We had to repeat the same table for a whole week, before moving onto the next one the following week, until we all knew all 12 tables off by heart.

We also had to try reading a passage to the teacher at her desk. We took it in turns to be the milk monitor, which made us feel very important. This task consisted of putting the straws in the bottles and giving the bottles out round the class at mid-morning. In the winter the crate of milk bottles was put by the large black stove to melt the ice.

On Monday mornings we took sixpence into school to buy a national saving stamp.

The Christmas party was an exciting time. We were expected to take our own cup, plate and spoon. These had to be marked at home and put in a named carrier bag. The cup and spoon had coloured wool wound round the handle and tied so we could identify them. The plate was marked on the bottom. When we had all finished eating we found the bag with our name on it to put our things in as the washing up was done at home.

We played singing and action games in the playground on a nice day supervised by a teacher.

The toilets were outside, isolated and creepy at the side of the building.

Our class was taken out to the two small garden plots allocated to us where we planted seeds and watched them grow and cared for them.

One day we were having a music lesson with Mrs Collett. She played the piano, while tapping the top of the piano and stamping her foot in time with the music all at the same time. Unfortunately one day she stamped her foot so hard the heel of her shoe fell off. She was a nice teacher.

On some afternoons the girls did some craft work, we were given a small piece of children's embroidery fabric and taught how to do cross stitch and straight stitch to make a little mat, which we got to take home, some of us also started to knit.

The whole class went out in the garden to watch and wait for the solar eclipse.

On a very gusty windy day I saw the whole of the school's large garden shed lift right up and sail away a short way.

The Vicar came into school to take the morning prayers once a week.

The class was taken up to the church to do some brass rubbings.

The older children took turns to ring the school bell in the morning.

In the Winter's very cold, snowy and icy weather the boys made a slide from the top of the playground to the gates. Unfortunately their fun was stopped as the next day it had ash and salt all over it.

Taking the dreaded eleven plus.

On a Friday afternoon before we finished for the week we had a Brer Rabbit story read to us by the teacher.

Sports day was the social highlight of the year, parents were invited to take part in some of the races.