

## **Priory School 1960-1966 – a miscellany of memories**

Being a “bus boy” – always late to school, via a bike ride, a walk, a bus, and another walk (and of course more walking to and fro on sports afternoons each week), envying school friends who lived “in town” and even more those who travelled by train!

Hating sports – freezing changing rooms, no showers, having to walk back into town before the journey home, with clothes over muddy legs, carrying wet kit and heavy satchel

Chilblains!

Short trousers – what was that about?

The river completely frozen over in winter 1963 (and some people walking across on the ice!)

Discovering that the Head (CWEP!) was actually a real human being who wore JEANS, when he joined the small gang who went up into the Stretton Hills during summer holidays to help build “the Hut”

Batty Bland (Friday – it’s double dose day!), Froggy Hall, Mr AND Mrs Evans, Mr Cooke, Mr Prosser, Major Proctor.....

The week’s visit by ITV to make a film about a “typical” State Grammar school, and seeing the 1<sup>st</sup> Eight doing their stuff some years later in an extract used as an “interlude” (remember them?)

Running the school tuck-shop for two years (and making the best profits for school funds ever!)

Serving staff dinners for two years (and consuming much leftovers – good job I was taking all that exercise travelling each day!). Not good though in the cross-country running season!

BRILLIANT school meals (for 1/3d), cooked fresh by the formidable and red-haired Mrs Jones and her staff in an unbelievably small space - cheesy mash, beef stew, cheese and onion pie, chocolate sponge with pink custard.....

Being made a 4<sup>th</sup>-form prefect – what a surprise!

Still having to wear school uniform to go to work on Saturdays, in Littlewoods (£1 a day – good money!)

Priory Girls, National Milk Bar in town!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CCF (RAF section, of course – keep warm and dry!)

Why name a school House after a film-star?

Avoiding being in the choir by singing badly in the first music lesson!

No cap or blazer badge and a “student scarf” in the 6<sup>th</sup> form – still got it somewhere!

How did I ever get Latin O-level?

Very few Smiths but lots of Jones’

**Paul Smith - February 2010**