

GROWING UP IN HENLEAZE (1950s – 1970s)

I was born and christened Andrea Williams in 1955. My brother Robert was born in 1958 and then my sister Karen in 1960. I am pictured here with my Mum, Dorothy outside the historic row of terraced properties known as Dorset Villas. Our home was no 2. I have



always had an interest in older buildings and their history, probably as a result of living in this area in my youth. We had a great childhood and were able to play in the waste ground at the rear of villas at the end of the drive, behind the wooden gates in Eastfield Terrace. This drive led to the old stable and garage where I assume a carriage was kept at one time. Our dad rented part of this as

his workshop (he was an engineer and carpenter) and above this was a small upstairs room which at one time he used to develop pictures. There was a small area where we hung out our washing at the very end of the drive, and for many years next to this was the bombed building; our name for what may have been a building at some point. This was where we played, built dens, put on shows for our parents and had annual bonfire parties with neighbours etc. etc: such freedom!

Another 'playground' was the old quarry across the road. I am sure we weren't meant to be there, but it was wonderful for building dens and having adventures! In the summer we swam in the outdoor pool in the grounds of the School for the Blind (across the other side of the Henleaze Road dual carriageway) where we were members. We also had swimming lessons on Friday evenings after school at Bristol North Pool on Gloucester Road, now closed. We used to walk there from Henleaze School with mum pushing my sister, Karen in a pushchair up what I remember were a couple of big hills! (Kings Drive)

I attended Henleaze Junior School from September 1963 – July 1967 and kept all my reports (eight in total – two a year!) I think this photo was taken in my second year. (1964-1965.) Mrs Scannell was the teacher. I am third from the right, front row - Andrea Williams. Third from the left front row is Caroline Farley, I believe. After 55 years all the other names have been forgotten.





This is a picture of my HJS school friends in July 1967. Top row: from left Judith Bennett, Kim Cary, Rosemary hall, Sue Cannon, Helen Rogers.

Bottom row: Joy Paddock, Ann Linsey, Janet Dawson. Our family were members of St Peters Church. My brother, Robert was in the choir for some years and we all attended Sunday school, brownies, guides, cubs and scouts.

Dad was a Cub Scout leader for many years and he helped to build the cub/scout hut in the corner of the old quarry; this is where my husband and I had our wedding reception in April 1976 after our wedding at St Peters. (Baldwin Lodge was opened here in 1975 for the 227th St Peter's Scout Group. No meeting was cancelled

during the eight years of construction work which cost £6,500.)

One of my favourite things about our involvement with the church was the seemingly regular jumble sales in the church hall, we had the entire jumble in our houses in piles and I just loved going through it all and then helping out at the sales! I got some wonderful treasures. I still get teased about my fondness for old fabric, wood and rusty metal! We had lovely Christmas parties at the church hall I presume with the Sunday school and I had a part in a play when I was about 10 or 11 which was performed there.



My ballet lessons were in the church hall and when I reached teenage years, Saturday night was band night!

Some of these things I had forgotten about but it is funny how a few old photos bring it all back! When we were quite young the church held some sort of fete in the car park at the front and surrounding grounds.

I have such lovely memories of Henleaze.

My brother Robert and I both live in Surrey nowadays. We have decided that one day we will go back and walk around for a while to see how much Henleaze has changed!

Any history on the Henleaze area always grabs my attention!