

Did you know that one of the Henleaze Junior School teachers was the J K Rowling of her day?

The following appeared in several publications in 2015 Including the Bristol Times and Henleaze and Westbury Voice.

Veronica Bowerman, local history enthusiast and compiler of the Henleaze Book, was recently in correspondence with Andrea Bamford (nee Williams) who lived in Dorset Villas Henleaze, Bristol from the 1950s to 1970s. Andrea was able to reveal from her memories of former Henleaze Junior School pupil some amazing information about one of the teachers!

Her Mother, Dorothy Williams became friendly with a neighbour, Elaine Horseman from Cheriton Close who was a teacher at Henleaze Junior School when Andrea attended. An entry in Henleaze Junior School logs for its 25th exhibition (7-11 November, 1977) included Elaine as one of their guests, but gave no indication of current role then as a well known children's author.

When Mrs Elaine Horseman left HJS in the early 1960s she changed careers and became the author of three children's books. They centre on five children in an old Victorian house and their experiences with a book of magic spells. According to Wikipedia she was 'She was the second of nine children and grew up in a house very like the Hubbles'.

Her three books are:

Hubble's Bubble. 1964

The Hubbles' Treasure Hunt. 1965

The Hubbles and the Robot. 1968

This is a quote from on Amazon from Carole J. Walker on January 7, 2015:

Elaine Horseman was the J.K. Rowling of her day. Witchcraft, candlesticks, 3 English children, a mouse... I read this as a child in the 1960's and never forgot it. The name Alaric charmed me so I looked it up. He was a King of the Visigoths, ok.

She was married to Leslie Horseman and had two sons, Stephen and Christopher. She died in Bristol in 1999.

Do any of your readers have any memories of Elaine Horseman's books, her time as a teacher at Henleaze Junior School in the late 1950s/early 1960s or her family in Cheriton Place or have any photos of her?

For anyone that has a copy of the 1957 Henleaze Junior School panoramic photo Mrs Horseman is sat next to Mr Burgess.

This is an extract of the photo. Mr Burgess is on the left.

