

# NEWSLINE

North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos. Colchester's oldest state school. Opened November 12th 1894.

February 2019

Issue 1

[www.northschoolcxxv.com](http://www.northschoolcxxv.com)



## CXXV OFF TO A GREAT START



*Pictured appropriately below Homecoming (year started in brackets). Rosina Hawes (2005) granddaughter of Gwenda Read (1947) Jill Holland (1948), Susan Wilson (1959) and David Holland (1945)*

The first community event of our anniversary project was a great success. 102 former pupils, staff and governors signed up to be involved. There were people with connections going back to the earliest days. In the photo above everybody organised themselves in order of when they started at North, up to the present day in Reception. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to explore the school, meet old friends - two men had not seen each other for 50 years. Some brought photos which were copied and added to the archive. Whilst the older visitors reminisced there was plenty for children to do. They could look at lots of artefacts brought in by artist Lisa Temple-Cox and members of Lexden History Society. There was a photo puzzle to complete and they could make a cardboard model of the bell tower with Nicola Burrell. Refreshments were provided by Tesco's and served by our NSA.



*Three Generations. Theo, Year 1, is pictured with his mum Beth Dagge, a former pupil and now parent governor. On the right is his grandmother, Jenny Alvey, who ran the Nursery for 40 years. With them is Gina James who was the deputy head for 20 years.*

**Project Manager, Laura Davison writes:**

“We had a tremendous response to the open event, with visitors who attended the school from the 1930s right through to pupils who attend today.

Jack Bramhill was delighted to come back to North - he was the youngest pupil in the school on the centenary and cut the cake with the eldest pupil. He brought the press cutting with him to add to the archive.

Trudie Mundell has written a chapter in her book about North when it first opened. She has shared her research with us. This includes how the money was raised to pay for the school. She also confirmed that the lecterns are original. Amongst her research are gems like the buns made in cookery and the recipe.

Robin Matthews was at North in the 1950s. He loved returning to North again and visiting his old classroom. He remembers the small cottages that were in front of the school, where Sea Trade is. His friend lived in one of the cottages and he is going to contact him to send us more stories.

Matilda's best memory was when her Mum got married in the Junior Hall last year.

Ellie and George, (both currently in Year 5) interviewed Eric Shaw who attended school in the 1950s. He had very fond memories of North, but said he used to be quite naughty! He loved the dinner ladies and Stowe's bakery on the corner of John Harper Street.

Susan Wilson attended North from 1959 to 1965. She brought lots of her old writing books with her. Fancy keeping your school books for 60 years!

Mrs Alvey (Keeble) in the nursery was a real favourite for former pupils. Many of them had happy memories of the old tin bath which was used for lots of

imaginative play. Claire Liddamore said 'We had so much fun playing in that!' Mrs Alvey wrote: 'What a fantastic way to spend a Saturday morning. So many wonderful memories of a very special school.'

Mr Fookes who taught in the 1960s is also remembered with great fondness.

Former pupils loved meeting Miss Jacobs who were taught by her. They remembered making the time capsule during the centenary year.

Wendy Sadler shared photographs of her relatives Herbert Sadler and James Wass who attended North at the beginning of the 20th century, and were killed in action during WWI. They are commemorated on our roll of honour. Wendy said 'It was a superb and informative day today - it was a pleasure to share photos and information of past students Herbert Sadler and James Wass, knowing they continue to be remembered after all this time.’’



Mr. Armitage with former pupils recording on a map

A selection of written comments:

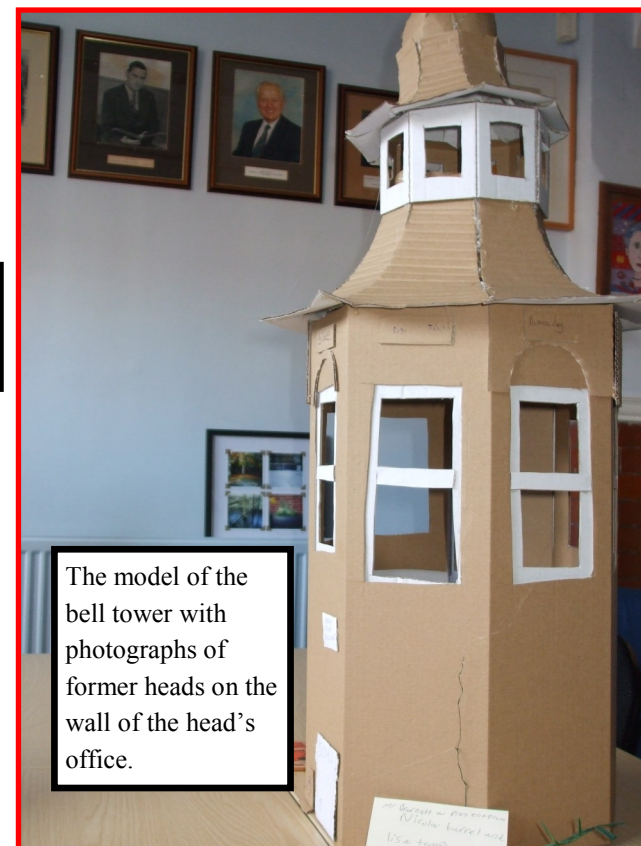
The first time I've been back since the 1970s. Much of the school hasn't changed. Really enjoyed looking around - I have very happy memories of being here from 1963 - 1970. Paul Goodall

What a wonderful trip down memory lane. It has been wonderful to see all the photos. Beth Dagge attended 1984 - 1992.

First visit back to the school in 35 years. Great memories came flooding back and it seems like very little has changed (in a good way). Dan O'Brien 1979 - 1984.

Wonderful morning spent remembering all the nursery and school days. Fantastic seeing the collection of old photos and the time capsule. Ruth Hewitt nee Bonner 1987 - 1995.

Pauline Page, nee Ascott wrote: It was so nice to see my old school that I attended 1953 - 1959, also speaking to a few old pupils. Today the school is thriving. It was lovely to see new pupils learning about the past.



The model of the bell tower with photographs of former heads on the wall of the head's office.