

# Local Memories of 1964

by Hilary Collins

In 1964 I was attending St Mary's Grammar School for Girls in Northwood. The school was seven years old that year and the first cohort had just left the Upper Sixth year having completed their secondary school education.

The school magazine is full of the year's events including the school birthday celebrations in March, with a service at Emmanuel church, Northwood, followed by the ever popular free buns for all. There was also a memorable staff performance of Haydn's Toy Symphony played on improvised instruments.

There was a prize-giving ceremony in May. Several girls completed various Duke of Edinburgh scheme challenges. The school play that year was 'Love's Labours Lost'. The 14th July was, as usual, celebrated by a range of entertainments and activities on a French theme. A charity appeal tapped into 'Beatlemania' as a popular theme to raise money. Trips included a variety of theatre trips, the Planetarium, geology museum, Tower of London, Hampton Court,

London Zoo, Kodak, ATV studios at Elstree, St Albans, and geography field trips to Coombe Hill and Swanage. Some girls went on a Baltic cruise.

The advertisements in the magazine publicise a variety of local shops. These include purveyors of our school uniform: **Altons** of Ruislip, which sold school uniform and leisure wear, with a girls shop at 60 High Street (now occupied by Smartex), a boys shop at 103, and a men's shop at 101 High Street (both now occupied by Sweeneys). Also **Allen brothers**, a school outfitters, of 23 Broadway, Northwood Hills, and **G.T. Hopkins** of 136 Field End Road, Eastcote, which sold sports uniform and equipment, as well as Timex watches apparently. Other shops with adverts were **Bowley's** shoe shop at 7 Clive Parade, Green Lane, Northwood, with another branch at 47/49 High Street, Ruislip, and **Carter's** gift store at 45 Salisbury Road, Eastcote, selling 'everything from a pin to an elephant' (China of course).



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