

Hello...this is Anthony (Tony) Arnold.

I was born at home and lived at 77 Albany Road and started school at Parkhurst Elementary school on Albany Road, Newport.

In 1955 I took the 11+ exam and was told later that I would be going to Priory Secondary Boys School.

At that time I did not realise what a fantastic opportunity I had been given to attend an almost brand new school and how well it would prepare me for later life.

I started in stream 1U. I must admit I floundered quite a bit with the feeling of being out of my depth, especially in French, and ended the 1st term at the bottom of the class. My father was very understanding and arranged a meeting with Mr Flux the headmaster, who was also sympathetic and actually listened to what I had to say about my situation and how I felt. It was decided that next term I would start in class 1M. From then on I flourished. I will be eternally grateful to my Dad and Mr. Flux for that decision.

Some names that I remember from my years 1955 - 1959:

John Gutteridge.

Terrence (Titch) Walker, whom I believe went into the Royal Navy.

Robert Maxwell, I bumped into him in a grocery store while visiting back in Newport a few years ago.

Bruce Overton.

Zami Zambelli?

Victor? Steer. I think he had a brother Micheal.

Ron Carter, one year below. Lived down Stag Lane. He was a great friend for over 65 years. He unfortunately passed away last year

Harry Flood, lived in Gunville. I remember Harry very well. Harry and I had a disagreement one day, cant remember what it was about now, anyhow, Harry and I stood face to face, nose to nose, which was hard as I was quite a bit bigger and taller than him, thought I could take him easy, and as boys do, challenged each other to fight, three punches from Harry and I was a sniveling mess on the ground. Nobody had told me that Harry was the local junior boxing champ. Moral of the story : Never underestimate a small guy.

Richard (Dickie?) Flack, I see his family still owns Fairlee Service Station.

Barry Harris, lived half way down Albany Road.

Tony Webster, lived next door to Barry.

Bill Sampson, had older brother Ted.

Terry Lothian, I think he lived in the pub, Britannia, at the corner Worsley Rd and Hunny Hill

Brian Sloper built his own guitar, lived end of Albany Road at Worsley Rd. Brother Peter.

Michael Kirk. I think his parents owned the paper shop on top Hunny Hill.

Like one of the writers here, I have fond memories of the Duke of Edinburgh award program, especially the photography club. I developed my first picture of a cow, captured on my Box Brownie camera, in the school dark room. I think it was 127 film. We had a small spare room at home, that I, with the help of my dad turned into a dark room. Dad got me two lamps one red for black and white film and one yellow for colour film. I spent many hours in there developing and printing both black and white and colour film and prints. Wish I still had all those pictures.

School lunches (dinners) were, I thought, great, especially the chocolate sponge pudding with chocolate custard. The smell of hot chocolate still brings back those wonderful memories.

I really enjoyed Metal work with Mr Petrie, especially working on the forge and seeing the sparks fly. I made a steel fire poker with a nice twisted scroll handle, which I gave to my Mum and made a rather cheeky ashtray by casting molten aluminium into a sand form and gave it to my Dad who was unfortunately a smoker.

Science with Mr (Shorty) Martin intrigued me. I remember making a small battery driven electric motor and learning about levers and pulleys.

French with Mr (Peter) Miller...not so good, I had absolutely no aptitude for language.

Mr (Ralph) Lambert - Geography. He opened up the whole wide world, with magical places with names like Mozambique and Mongolia. I think this inspired me to travel the world from New Zealand to Cambodia and all places in between.

Mr Milton - Biology and Rural Science (gardening) . Biology was a hoot, there were lots of giggles about you know what. Im not much of a gardener but he taught me how to clean and look after tools, which served me well in later life.

Phys Ed with Don House. I was a chubby kid, built for comfort not for speed. Running around the gym I was always last in line and would get a swat on the behind by him with the end of one of the leather tipped hanging climbing ropes. (Most probably be termed child abuse these days) It did spur me on to run faster and I went on to play and enjoy playing rugby and other sports later on.

Mr (The Rev) Higgins - Religious Instruction, who taught us all about the good book and morals.

History with Mr Sewell. Stories of Guy Fawkes, Joan of Arc and Christopher Columbus, sparked my imagination.

(Brian) Lansley – Math, I think in 1U. I did meet Brian many years later when he had the car business near Pritchards garage. I don't think he remembered me but I did remember him, and we chatted.

(SAS) Audis – Math 1M. Great grounding in geometry and algebra, very much needed in later life in mechanical engineering.

English with, I think, Mr. Blackmore in the library. Reading books like Treasure Island, Robinson Crusoe and Moby Dick fired my love of reading.

Art.. Who was the art teacher? I got an "A" for drawing a picture of a flying man with a jet pack on his back.

Really enjoyed music, cant remember the teacher. I was in the choir and sang in the Mikado and Gondoliers concerts. Fired my love for music. Learnt how to play the cello in later life, which I still do with the New Horizons Orchestra.

Technical drawing.. From an early age all I wanted to become was a Draughtsman. Don't ask me why. During one Technical Drawing class with Mr Stanbrook he told me my line pencil work and printing was not good enough and I would never be a good draughtsman, I was absolutely floored. I was determined to prove him wrong.

After I left school at age 15, I went to work at J.S. Whites Ship Builders and Engineers in West Cowes. I spent 6 months in the ships draughting office as an Office boy / gofer, then I began a 5 year apprenticeship as a Fitter / Turner. During those five years I attended the IOW Technical College on a day release program along with evening courses. I left the college with a City of Guilds diploma , ONC and HNC in mechanical engineering. When JSW started to fold up, in 1965, I left and got a job with Kellogg International Co in Southampton and later in London as a junior draftsman in petro-chemical engineering.

In 1973 I emigrated to Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, where I have lived ever since. I remained in the Petro-Chemical field for 35 years rising to position of Senior Piping / Mechanical Designer working for companies like Imperial Oil (Exxon), Shell and Suncor, until I retired in January 2000. Since then I have pursued my passion for the outdoors with wilderness canoe and hiking trips all over Canada and the world and of course my music.

I am married to my wonderful wife Barbara Ann and have two grown up daughters and a son, three grandsons, two grand daughters, one great grandson and three great grand daughters, all here in Sarnia.

I cant begin to express the gratitude I feel towards all the teachers of Priory Secondary Boys School for such a fantastic start in life. I didn't realise it at the time, but I was very, very fortunate in deed.

Feel free to share my email address.

Regards.....Tony Arnold

PS That is **David** Hunnybun in the white shirt in the photograph. He had an older brother Kenneth. Lived on Hunny Hill. My mum and his mum were great friends