



The May Queen attended by her flower girls, including Molly (third from left)

BROOM HALL: A VICTORIAN GATED DEVELOPMENT

Four Broomhall Road was built in the area surrounding Broom Hall (just up the road), which in the 1800's was known as Broom Hall Park.

The owner of the Broom Hall estate was a John Watson, who around 1840 sponsored the development of new housing immediately surrounding the Hall itself. The estate was an exclusive development with gated entry.

The gates were controlled by four lodges built for the purpose. To the south, entry was from Ecclesall Road at the bottom of Collegiate Crescent; from the north west, towards the top of Park Lane; to the north east, off Wharncliffe Road at the top of Collegiate Crescent. In the east the fourth lodge was also off Wharncliffe Road at the start of Broomhall Road.

The lodge is now a private residence and is the building in the corner of the Nursery's garden. The gates

to the estate were removed in 1916.

The first owner of the house was George William Travis a builder who probably built the property. He then let the house and raised mortgages against it, the last being for £1000.

This mortgage was transferred to James Henry Barber, the manager of the Sheffield Banking Company on George Street Sheffield. He later became chairman of the bank and a (Sheffield) Town Trustee. The house remained in the family (he had 12 children who

all outlived him), until 1926.

It was sold to a Sheffield antiques dealer George Christopher Olivant for £790. It was then sold on to Sheffield Education Authority on the 8 March 1930 for £1400.

On the 15th September 1930 the first pupil, Joseph Norman Bradshaw, was registered by the first headteacher, Hilda M Powis.

Since then there have been eight further headteachers including the current one, Gill Peacock. Apart from school holidays the nursery has remained open since 1930 with only two breaks; one for five weeks during the Sheffield blitz and then for three days to celebrate VE day. Long may it continue!

Tim Peacock



The house in around 1850 (below) and today (below right). A carriage passes through the lodge gate (above). Pictures courtesy of Sheffield Quakers



SISTERS BACK AT OLDEST NURSERY

Sisters Wendy Dodd and Molly Proctor are making their first visit to Broomhall Nursery for over 70 years today!

Wendy, now aged 77 and 75-year-old Molly were pupils here in the late 1930s, when it was still a new development.

Wendy, who lives in Crosspool, said: "It was a very happy

place. We haven't been back since we left. We lived in Rivelin but our mother and father both worked. My aunt had a grocer's shop in Broomspring Lane, so that's why we went."

"I can vividly remember sitting on the wooden floor in what seemed to be a very big room. We would sing songs like 'Miss Polly had a dolly' and the times when I was chosen as Miss Polly

are a favourite memory."

"I also remember one day we had a new teacher called Miss Rabjohn who we thought was called Miss Hedgehog!"

Coal Aston-based Molly said: "I'm excited to be coming back, it might bring back some memories. I can only have been two or three when I was an attendant carrying cornflowers in a May Queen parade there."

CHRISTMAS STRIFE FOR SANTA CLAUS?

Tony Marsh has shared with us his amusing memories of Christmas celebrations at

Broomhall Nursery in 1940.

He can remember a lovely party to which Father Christmas came with presents for all the children and kisses for all the teachers.

When Tony excitedly described all of this to his mum on the way home from the nursery, she was not best pleased.

Father Christmas in 1940 was Tony's dad!



Tony Marsh (middle back row) and friends (above)



THROUGH THE YEARS

The nursery's log books from its earlier years provide a fascinating insight into some of the events which took place during the first half of its life to date.

For all the current worry about crime and anti-social behaviour, the log books note that break-ins and vandalism were far more prevalent years ago. But they also contain valuable clues to how things were done in the past.

15th September, 1930 – The nursery opens, with 23 children admitted. By 31st October, over 100 are on the roll, aged from 2¼ to 4¾.

1932 – A measles epidemic hits the nursery, and one child sadly dies.

1934 – Outdoor sandpit opens.

1937 – Visitors to the nursery come from all over the world. In 1937, visitors came

from as far afield as Australia. The nursery later receives visitors (usually teachers or students on exchange programmes) from South America, Detroit (USA), Germany, Holland, Uganda, South Africa, Brazil and Malta.

1937 – Wendy house arrives and quickly becomes the most popular toy in the nursery. It cost £11 19s 11d.

1938 – The nursery holds its first garden party on 9th July. The house had to be used, as well as the outside, due to the unsettled weather. The nursery raised £7 9s 7d.

1st September

1939 – The school is closed for eight months due to the start of the Second World War. Around 50-60 children are evacuated to Melton Mowbray.

1940 – The school re-opens, but only from 11am

to 2.30pm, due to air raids. It is then closed again due to the Blitz, with 23 of the school's windows broken.

1946 – The school is visited by a photographer from *The Star*, with the pictures published on 8th July.

1955 – Teachers receive guidance from the deputy director of education on how to “lure dad into the nursery.” Tips include “If the wheelbarrow has been broken in play that day, ask him if he could fix it. Flatter his vanity.”

1959 – A warm summer as the paddling pool is in use for several weeks. Children take their daily sleep outside from 1st February.

1970 – The bungalow is developed on the grounds of the former 6 Broomhall Road.

1990 – The nursery celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.



Headteacher Joan Fallows celebrates the 1990 Diamond Jubilee with some of her pupils



The beloved first wendyhouse, which arrived in 1937

MOTHER TOO FUSSY

The admission registers from the war period give a fascinating glimpse into what life at nursery was like for Broomhall's early pupils.

In 1941 or thereabouts, several children left nursery because they “would not settle”. This leaves open the question of whose decision this was in this necessarily no-nonsense era: the mother's or the nursery's?

The early records rarely beat around the

bush. “Mother too fussy” is the bald comment on why one boy left nursery, while another lad simply “will not come”.

And what, you might wonder, happened to the boy from Upper Hanover Street, about whom the staff member wrote: “Mother too lazy to bring him”?

Following the whole nursery evacuation of 1939-40, several children seem to have been evacuated from Sheffield individually as it is recorded that they are “in the country” or “away”.

On the other hand, some children arrive from London and are marked in the register as an “Evacuee”.

Nursery clearly allowed women to carry out war work, while their menfolk were away at the front, but some children left nursery because “mother (is) not working” or even “mother would not pay”.

Illness was regularly cited, with common complaints including measles, whooping cough and diphtheria. Those with scabies were “excluded” for a long period.

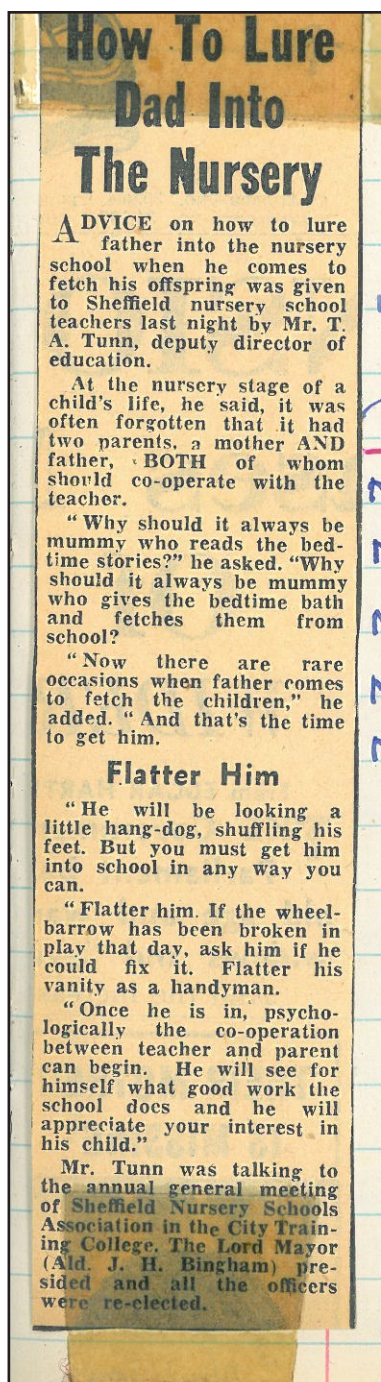


BROOMHALL THROUGH THE YEARS

Can you spot yourself??



Many thanks to the newspaper production team: Steve Chu, Jane Oliver-Jedrzejak, Helen Whysall, Tracey Shibli and everyone else who was involved



HOW TO LURE DAD INTO THE NURSERY

A yellowing newspaper clipping is stuck onto a page of the nursery log.

Dating from 1955, it features advice from the then deputy director of education on "How to lure dad into the nursery" (see above).

We wondered how one of our modern, hands-on dads would respond to this piece. The answer came from George Carman, father of Amy (4), Rebecca and Jessica (see below).

HOW TO LURE DAD INTO THE NURSERY 2011

With fathers now taking a far more proactive part in a child's

upbringing, it is common to see dads pick up and drop off their children. Albeit, in a hasty fashion. So, once he's there, how do you keep him there and get him involved with the nursery?

When Dad turns up with child, he will be looking a little "sleepy dog" having been up late the night before watching Dave or re-runs of CSI.

The nursery drop off is a military operation – Dad's main aim will be to deposit the child with stealth and cunning, getting in and out of the nursery as quickly as possible.

It's an added bonus if the child is not crying when he leaves, but not essential, although he may question (not for long) if he should have stayed a

bit longer. He has very important things to do at home, like a second cup of coffee before assessing the wife's "to do list". Dad will then discard said list with the intention of doing some more manly chores involving power tools or paint, ideally both. This is all before he remembers he Sky plus'd a must-see episode of *Dr Who*. With any luck, he may have more than one to watch having set a series link. (Apologies to all dads without Sky Plus).

Flatter him...

In this day and age flattery still works wonders, although the topic needs to be chosen carefully. Whilst Dad may have more tools than B&Q, this does not mean he knows how to use them. My example of sawing 2 inches off the wrong end of a door springs to mind.

So I would suggest, in order to flatter his vanity, reference how well he seems to look after his children for the nursery drop off.

When flattering him on how he does well to get the children dressed and to nursery on time (irrespective of the fact he will either turn up too late or too early), the following areas should be ignored:

Mismatched clothing, toothpaste on face – child or father (luckily he remembered to brush said teeth), unbrushed hair, dresses on back to front, mismatched and wonky hair

FAVOURITE THINGS – TODAY'S PUPILS HAVE THEIR SAY

There's so much to like about Broomhall Nursery – but everyone's got a different favourite thing! Here (below right) are some of the best bits, as chosen by pupils over the past few years:

"Doing cutting and sticking and making crowns"



"Jelly and getting gloopy, gloopy hands"



bobbles; in fact, anything to do with the child's appearance.

If these tips are taken on board then any form of flattery will help boost his ego and encourage him to stay a bit longer and take a greater interest in his children's time at nursery.

Seriously, having been a regular to the nursery for the last 7 years, there are loads of opportunities for dads (and mums) to have a greater role in their child's time there.



"I like to go on the red bike"

"I loved Denise reading me a story"

"Climb on the climbing frame and go down the slide"

"I enjoyed dressing up, especially as doctors and nurses"



"The most beautiful place is the story corner in my classroom"

Apart from dropping my children off and being cheeky to the staff, I have been involved in and attended many things, for example:

- Christmas party
- Summer Fayres
- Real Project
- Come on everybody parent support
- Puppet show
- One world day

All in all, this is a fantastic nursery, not only for your children but for dads as well.

George Carman



"It's happy"

