

Happy Memories of growing up in Glen Hills

I was born and bred on Westview Avenue in the late 1960's and still live there now, over fifty years later.

I went to Glen Hills Primary School and my children subsequently went there after me. I remember Mr Buxton the headmaster, Mrs Claricotes the secretary and my teacher Mr Sutcliffe. The school (before its move to Featherby Drive) had a tree lined entrance path from Howard Road and the main entrance was on Cork Lane. I remember being stood in the school field watching over the fence, as two houses were demolished on Cork Lane to make way for Featherby Drive to be built. The main school buildings were wooden with asbestos roofs and we had school dinners in the brick-built canteen (again with asbestos roof) – I hated Semolina pudding! The canteen backed onto a portacabin which was sited on the corner of Westview Avenue and Cork Lane - and this was Glen Hills Library. My mother worked at the Library for many years and she used to be able to watch me playing in the school playground while she was in the Library. We occasionally used the Memorial Hall for school events and it was always exciting to go under the stage where all sorts of things were stored. You had to be careful not to bang your head on the beams of the stage floor above you!

As a family we used the corner shop and butchers on Howard Road, and occasionally went to Carvers Corner shops. I knew the Carver family through Scouts. I was a Cub Sixer and then a Scout Patrol Leader in the 62nd Leicester Scouts, which were based in the Scout Hut next to the Memorial Hall. I have lots of happy memories with the Scouts. We played 'Wide games' in the woods at night, had campfires on the Great Central Way, went canoeing on the canal and competed in Scout Car races around the country.

The park and woods were a great place to play. Two mounds were built in the park and they had concrete tunnels through them. We had lots of fun playing war games with the tunnels or riding our bikes up and down the mounds. We also played on the disused land that used to be Featherby's Nursery. I remember a ditch there which made a great trench for war games. This is where the Featherby Drive estate is now. The access to the park and the Memorial Hall from the bottom of Cork Lane, was across a little bridge over an open brook that still runs along the north side of Westview Avenue.

Another great place to play was the tip at the top of Cork Lane. We often went there to look for parts to make pedal bikes or go-carts. We would access the tip via the 'black pad' at the top of Cork Lane and get through a hedge onto the tip. I remember it as a vast area undulating with the different heaps of rubbish that had accumulated over the years. Because of the size of the heaps, it was easy to stay out of sight of anyone near the main entrance. It was a treasure trove of old junk. We were interested in old bikes and prams and the like - to use the old parts to make or fix our own bikes or make a go-cart with.

I also used to use the Tennis Courts on Court Road and had tennis lessons there. It has been sad to see the courts and the wooden tennis building falling into disrepair over so many years.

All told though, I have lots of happy memories of the area.

Tony Gale