

PAM FIELDING (NEE) HODGE
1962

This photos were taken in 1962 when Lower VI broke new ground by taking possession of the first room in the old “Blind Institution” for a Sixth Form Common Room. In this room we had an electric kettle and a record player.



Those were the days of jiving and Trad Jazz was particularly popular. Some of used to visit the YMCA on Saturday nights where all of the popular bands of that time appeared.

Some of us in the photos are wearing the new Sixth Form uniform, which consisted of a French navy skirt, and blue and white striped blouses. We also had a special dispensation that we did not have to wear tricorne hats (nor the beret to which some of us clung).

The unusual pose in the second photo below reflected that adopted by a pop group of the time called, “The Temperance Seven”, who invariably displayed deadpan expressions. I recall that we were a rather rebellious group who thought that we were being treated like children by our very “spinsterish” Form teacher.



The acquisition of the Common Room and the special uniform was therefore regarded as a great victory.

This was the era of the “Coffee Bar” of which the most popular amongst Plymouth High girls was the “El Sombrero” on Bedford Street (which was not far from the still existing Methodist Central Hall). The good looking young man who served the coffee was, I learned years later whilst listening to Desert Island Discs, none other than Charles Dance! It was in the “El Som” that I and my friends were introduced to cigarettes. It was considered very trendy to smoke either “Balkan Sobranie” or “Disque Bleu”!

Girls in Photo:-

Back Row -

Brenda Judge, Grace Moorose, Judy Oliver, Jacky Ellis, Angela Grundy, Vivienne Lane, Andrea Black, Virginia Swan, Brenda Favis, Glennis McAlpine, Rosalind Thomas, Jacky Gale.

Middle Row –

Joy Ackland, Margaret Parr, Cynthia Irvine, Susan Connell, Pam Hodge, Jill Aston, Christine May, Wendy Hillier, Janice Elliot, Christine Davis, Heather Camp, Maureen O’Leary.

Front Row –

Elizabeth Forest, Margaret Gregg, Janet Damarell, Pauline Jose, Margaret Seeds, Suzanne Johnson, Margaret Spear, Marion Heath, Veronica John, Doreen Pawley, Norma Smith.